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JPRS-KAR-88-005
22 FEBRUARY 1988



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East Asia

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ROK Calls for North's Expulsion From Aviation Organization

SK100251 Seoul YONHAP in English
0240 GMT 10 Feb 88

[Text] Washington, Feb. 9 (YONHAP)—South Korea Monday called for the expulsion of north Korea from the international civil aviation organization (ICAO) condemning Pyongyang for its bombing last november of a south Korean jetliner with 115 people aboard.

South Korean Vice Foreign Minister Pak Sang-yong said in his keynote speech at the international conference on air law now in session at Montreal, Canada, that specially trained north Korean agents acting on the orders of the highest authorities in the north carried out the bombing of Korean air flight 858.

The conference will continue until Feb. 24 with 64 countries and 10 international aviation organizations represented, including the international federation of airplane pilots association.

Pak, south Korea's chief delegate to the conference, censured the north's terrorist act as a crime that challenges the international agreements on civil aviation as well as all of mankind.

He said that the north, which failed to abide by the basic norms of international society, has no legitimacy in being a member of the ICAO established for air safety.

Following Pak, delegates from the United States, Britain, Japan, Sweden, and Chile also denounced the north in support of Pak's remarks.

The ICAO is scheduled to convene an executive board meeting on Feb. 29 to discuss the bombing of the KAL jet.

Seoul Paper Quotes Japanese Press on Agent's Private Life

SK050309 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
5 Feb 88 p 3

[Text] Tokyo—Parents of Kim Hyon-hui, a confessed north Korean agent suspected of planting a bomb aboard the Korean Air (KAL) Boeing 707 jetliner, wept all night when they were informed that Kim had been picked as an agent, Japanese weeklies reported.

Several weekly magazines reported in their latest editions that Kim opened her heart and began to talk about her private affairs, including her family.

The publications, including Shukan Asahi, carried Kim's confession which they allegedly obtained from reliable sources in Korea which were in charge of her interrogation.

The magazine said Kim stated that she is a virgin and likes to watch a television serial drama, "Pastoral Diary" on MBC TV.

They also said since brought to Korea she had been worried that her family members would be executed for her help to Korean authorities and wept often.

The weeklies said Kim's parents wept all night when they were informed that Kim had been recruited as an agent in March in 1980.

On hearing about her selection as a north Korean agent, her father Kim Won-sok telephoned someone, and protested.

Anyway, he told his daughter that "the party (North Korean Worker's Party) will continue to take care of you, including your marriage."

Kim confessed to Korean authorities that her father had served in north Korean embassies and now is in charge of fishery affairs at the north Korean trade mission in Angola.

Kim's mother Yim Myon-sik was so sorrowful that she burst into tears the night before she left home to undergo training as an agent, after cooking her "songpyon," a Korean traditional rice cake steamed on a layer of pine needles.

Kim stated that she had never dated. She shared a hotel room with her male companion Kim Sung-il to pose as father and daughter. However, she said she never had sex with him.

Meanwhile, the Japanese daily Sekai reported Wednesday that the Japanese woman who reportedly taught her Japanese in north Korea was probably one of the three women who disappeared in Hukui and Nikida in Japan.

Kim Hyon-hui told Korean authorities that the Japanese instructor called "Enhe," was kidnapped to north Korea while enjoying an outing on a beach with her family.

Kim told investigators that she was so ashamed when the Japanese woman told her that she had watched a strip show after she was invited to a theater by Kim Chong-il. He is north Korean leader Kim Il-song's son and his apparent heir.

The Japanese woman said that after the strip show performance all guests there were ordered by junior Kim to play a game in which all became naked.

Lately, she is fond of watching TV dramas and never misses the news. Her favorite dramas are "Five Hundred-Year-History of the Choson Dynasty" and "Pastoral Diary."

She revealed all what she did after being touched by the south Korean people's vitality, freedom, confidence and investigators' warm-heated treatment of her.

After being chosen as an agent in 1980, she was trained for a year in "Kumsong Political and Military School" in Pyongyang. In the school she learned Kim Il-song's theory on his unification and revolution in south Korea. She also learned martial art, shooting, terrain and swimming.

While studying there, she watched an American spy movie, "The Guns of Navarone."

To pose as a typical Japanese, she frequently watched such Japanese movies as "Yuki Kuni (Snow Nation)" and "Tokyo in the Night." The reports by Japanese media that Kim underwent plastic surgery on her face proved to be false.

Kim's male companion bit into a poison-laced cigarette first when they were stopped at Bahrain Airport and said "I have lived long enough, but you, such a beautiful young lady, have to die...I'm sorry."

ROK Daily Carries Interview of Former Kidnappees

SK021054 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean
27 Jan 88 p 10

(Interview with Choe Un-hui and Sin Sang-ok, former South Korean movie star and producer who defected to the United States from North Korea 2 years ago, by Korean correspondents in Washington on 25 January at the Foreign Press Center in Washington]

[Text] [Question] Since your defection from North Korea, you have lived in the United States for 2 years. What impressions do you now have?

[Sin Sang-ok] (Smiling) That is a difficult question.

[Choe Un-hui] I would first like to apologize to my friends and to my fans who used to love me. I am glad to have this opportunity to send greetings to them. When I met with you 2 years ago, I was so excited I could not talk with you openmindedly. I have had many thoughts since then. I have put my 8-year experience in North Korea in order. I have also had time to write down my recollections.

[Sin] After getting out of North Korea, we had many thoughts about our future. It has been difficult for us to live as those who defected from North Korea in the past. In writing recollections, recalling the past took much time. I did not think my recollections would become a large volume, but ultimately it turned out to be 8,000 pages.

[Question] When are your recollections going to be published?

[Sin] It is scheduled for early March in Japan.

[Question] When do you expect to return to Seoul?

[Choe] I hope I can do that in the near future.

[Sin] There has been much talk about our choice of the United States. For artists, the environment is important to carrying on their artistic activities. Because of our ages and because of our reliance on the United States over the course of our defection from North Korea, we have come to stay here. However this has created unnecessary misunderstanding. The question on the time of our return to South Korea is meaningless. We still think of it conservatively, though they say that we are joining the ranks of advanced nations. I know that a South Korean should return to South Korea, if he desires to pursue his artistic activities. However the situation does not permit this.

[Question] With your experiences in North Korea, how do you assess the bombing of the KAL 858?

[Sin] The Western world measures North Korea with their own common sense, the United States especially so. If judged with international common sense, such an incident as the Rangoon incident could have not occurred. They continue to do things that go beyond common sense. A word or two will not be enough to make them know. The North Korean power structure has been built that way. South Koreans and those engaged in North Korean affairs know this, but foreigners do not.

[Question] If that is the case, will similar incidents continue to occur?

[Sin] You can tell, if you think from their prospective. What do they have? That is all they have; How can they wrestle with South Korea any other way? Even before the KAL incident, many times I said that "North Korea would not be so easy."

[Question] What do you have to say about the report that Kim Chong-il gave the order in his own handwriting to Kim Hyon-hui, who bombed the KAL passenger plane?

[Sin] I met Kim Chong-il many times. I do not think it was necessary for Kim Chong-il to give the order in his own handwriting under the North Korean system. However it is possible that the one who gave the order to Kim Hyon-hui told her the order was given in Kim Chong-il's own handwriting.

[Question] What about the fact that North Korea kidnaps even foreigners?

[Sin] Although it does not seem to be of any help, to our common sense, North Korea appears to think otherwise.

[Choe] I saw a kidnapped Jordanian woman when I was in North Korea. It was in a garrison district off limits to all civilians that I saw this woman. It was a place located about 1 hour's drive north of Pyongyang. I saw this woman from the Middle East while I was taking a walk. In my broken English I asked her where she was from. She said she was from Jordan. I do not recall exactly what I told her about where I was from. I said I was from China or Japan, but I am sure I did not say that I was from South Korea. She was tearful when she said that she could not go home.

A few months later I saw another beautiful woman whom I thought to be Chinese. She said she was from Macau. We arranged to meet secretly in the forest during our walks. She surprised me by saying that she recognized me. She said she recognized me because there were blown-up photos of me in the Macau papers which carried stories about my kidnapping. This was before she had been kidnapped. We managed to make ourselves understood by each other as she spoke Korean. Then she told me about her kidnapping. With her mother and younger brother in Macau, she had to give up the idea of studying in a university. She had a job as a tour guide, at the same time she worked in a jewelry shop as a sales clerk. One day a young man with long hair approached her and asked for a guided tour of Macau. Then two couples, two men and two women, came to her and asked to be guided to the beach. These men and women subsequently rowed to deep water, where a big ship was waiting. At first she struggled, wept, and kicked in resistance, but to no avail. Another woman in her thirties was also kidnapped along with her.

When they were taken on a trip in Pyongyang, the two kidnapped women rushed into the Indonesian Embassy precinct and pleaded to be rescued, explaining that they had been kidnapped. Embassy staff members showed them a photograph in a magazine and asked if they knew the woman. It was my photograph that they saw in the magazine. They did not know who it was because it had been before they saw me in person.

The Indonesian embassy officials refused to help them on the grounds that they were not citizens of Indonesia. As the woman in her thirties threatened to kill herself and cried and cried, she was taken deeper into the forest. The beautiful woman I met in the forest came there after working somewhere else. Finding that her resistance got her nowhere, she changed her mind and began to learn Korean. When I escaped North Korea, I did not mention her because my information about her could be used against her. She begged me to make her case public if I managed to escape North Korea.

[Question] What do you think was the motive for her kidnapping?

[Choe] According to a rumor that reached me later, she was teaching Cantonese.

[Sin] It is unexplainable by common sense. One may simply ask: Why can't those in North Korea invite language teachers with good pay if they need them? That is not what they normally do. In an interview, a reporter from THE NEW YORK TIMES asked me: Why did North Korea pick you when there are many film makers in Japan? North Korea would arrange a wedding for the people after 5 or 6 years in North Korea and in the process turn them into revolutionary comrades.

[Choe] Those in North Korea say that the revolution should be carried out from generation to generation.

[Sin] The kidnapers of Yodo have now grown into large families.

[Question] What about the disappearance of a Japanese couple?

[Sin] I would say 80 or 90 percent of that story was true. In retrospect, I believe it could be possible. Again I say this cannot be explained with common sense.

[Question] What are your future plans?

[Sin] I am concerned about my future. To survive, I must do something. Shifting its attitude, North Korea has told me that it is willing to jointly produce "Genghis Khan" with me. It has also threatened that our lives would become miserable if we return to South Korea. Last June, the U.S. Government gave me notice that I should be careful. I heard many times that I would face my end, if I betray. Since roughly 1973, Kim Chong-il has been doing everything. Kim Il-song is doing nothing but meeting foreigners. People are not fully aware of this. Several days ago, I read a report by the Naewoe Press of South Korea that there seems to be a problem in Kim Il-song's hereditary system. This is something like propaganda that Kim Chong-il is not in power yet. Following the KAL incident, the Japanese asked about the possibility of Kim Chong-il's demise. I asked them in return if their emperor's demise is possible in Japan.

[Question] Immediately after your defection from North Korea, you used the honorific pronoun "Kubun" in referring to Kim Chong-il. However you do not do that now.

[Sin] After defecting from North Korea so suddenly, it was difficult to speak ill of Kim Chong-il overnight. In North Korea, the words "great leader" are commonplace, something like the greeting "How are you?" I laughed when a North Korean athlete, who won first place in an international shooting contest, referred to "the great leader" in speaking of his feelings. Thus, these terms bear no special meaning. It was not because of habit, but because I could not humanly change overnight that I first used honorific words in referring to Kim Il-song. It was absolutely not because of ideology.

[Question] Why did Kim Hyon-hui collapse so easily?

[Sin] Kim Hyon-hui is young. She must have had an attachment to her life. It should be realized that in North Korea there are tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands like those who committed the Rangoon incident and like Kim Hyon-hui. They believe that they cannot survive under a capitalist system.

[Question] Are there no defects in the North Korean system?

[Sin] If a totalitarian system crumbles once, that is the end of it. Things that happen in a human society also happen in North Korea.

[Choe] When I was in Tongbuk-ri, I missed people and people's voices. So I frequently went up a hill, where I could overlook a village down the hill. The wind brought children's prattle to me. One day, as I was looking down, children aged 12 or 13, seated in a circle, were smoking cigarettes. In the North, cigarettes, too, are distributed only as rations. So cigarettes are scarce. Though a horrible system, children were smoking.

[Sin] Actors and actresses who starred in the films I produced are just the same as we are. I watched a film about the performance of a North's children art troupe in Japan. There was a scene of the children watching their performance using a video cassette recorder at a Korean's home in Japan. The people in the North, too, see whatever is necessary. In particular, diplomats know whatever they should know.

[Choe] In the North, trained people like Kim Hyon-hui are treated well. However, if things do not go well, they can turn around right away, because they know about the free world. In particular, I think such a woman as Kim Hyon-hui can quickly change her mind.

[Sin] I do not understand why they deplaned after planting the bomb on the plane. They should have died there. As for Kim Hyon-hui, she could also have easily poisoned herself, if she really wanted to.

Cho Se-ung, Others Attend Mass Rallies in Chongjin, Sinuiju

*SK110030 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
2300 GMT 4 Feb 88*

[Text] Mass rallies to denounce the "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique and their nuclear war maneuvers were held on 4 February in the cities of Chongjin and Sinuiju.

The rally sites were packed with people who gathered with surging indignation and animosity against the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique, which are atrociously carrying on the criminal "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise and nuclear war maneuvers against the unanimous protest and denunciation of our people and the peace-loving people of the world.

Even before the rallies began, such slogans as "We sternly denounce the nuclear war maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the fascist South Korean military puppet clique!" "Let us smash the nuclear war provocation maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges through the unity of the nation!" and "Let us repel the U.S. imperialists and achieve the reunification of the fatherland!" were shouted vigorously.

Comrade Cho Se-ung, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, responsible secretary of the North Hamgyong Provincial WPK Committee, and chairman of the North Hamgyong Provincial People's Committee; Choe Ki-chong, chairman of the Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee of North Hamgyong Province; [Choe Sang-pyok], chairman of the Rural Economy Committee of North Hamgyong Province; responsible functionaries of the local party and power organs, administrative and economic organs, and working organizations; and deans of colleges were present at the Chongjin rally with masses of all strata in the city. After Chairman Choe Ki-chong spoke at the rally, Han Tong-hyok, representative of workers; Pak Hung-su, representative of agricultural working people; and Yu Chong-sun, representative of youths and students, spoke.

The speakers denounced with surging indignation the U.S. imperialist aggressors and the South Korean fascist military clique for bringing the situation of our country to an even graver stage by turning their faces away from our proposal for North-South joint conference and by staging the "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise, a nuclear war exercise.

After exposing that they are trying to mobilize a huge number of troops for this "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise, many more than the 200,000-strong troops mobilized last year, including U.S. forces based in the U.S. mainland and the Pacific region, not to mention the U.S. forces of aggression in South Korea and the puppet troops, and huge military equipment, the speakers exposed and denounced that this joint military exercise is the largest war exercise in history in view of the period of operation and the number of troops and is an extremely adventurous and dangerous playing-with-fire in view of its content and nature.

The speakers noted that, because of such criminal nuclear war provocation maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists, tension is further growing each day in our country instead of being eased, and a grave situation is being created in which the tinder of nuclear war may explode at any time. They said that, today, to prevent the danger of nuclear war in our country and to realize peace and peaceful reunification, the U.S. forces of aggression must be made to withdraw from South Korea, taking their nuclear weapons with them, and the Korean peninsula must be turned into a nuclear-free peace zone.

[Kim Song-tuk], secretary of the North Pyongan Provincial WPK Committee; [Paek Man-su], vice chairman of the Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee of North Pyongan Province; responsible functionaries of the local party and power organs, administrative and economic organs, and working organizations; and deans of colleges were present at the Sinuiju mass rally along with masses from the city.

After vice chairman [Paek Man-su] spoke at the rally, Yun Ki-sang, representative of workers; Yi Chong-suk, representative of agricultural working people; and An Kum-kyol, representative of youths and students, spoke.

The speakers unanimously denounced the nuclear war provocation maneuvers of the U.S. imperialist aggressors who have imposed all kinds of misfortunes and agonies by having turned South Korea into their colony and military base for more than 40 years and who run amok in seeking to make our nation the victim of a nuclear war.

Noting the party and government of the Republic's policy for the reunification of the fatherland, the speakers said that we have put forth the proposal for a North-South joint conference with a single mind to make this an historic year in which a new opportunity is provided for national reconciliation and unity between the North and South and have even taken the step of sending a letter containing this specific proposal to the South Korean side.

Saying that our people, who value national sovereignty and dignity, are not the ones frightened by any threat, the speakers demanded that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique immediately halt the "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise, and that the U.S. imperialists return to their dens without a day's delay, taking along with them their nuclear weapons and all other aggressive weapons.

Kwangbok Builders Denounce War Exercises

SK090416 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0400 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Pyongyang February 8 (KCNA)—The builders of Kwangbok street who are performing feats of labour at large-scale construction projects upholding the grand plan of our party for the construction of the capital, bitterly denounced the U.S. imperialists and the south Korean puppet clique for frantic adventurous "team spirit 88" joint military exercise and nuclear war manoeuvres ignoring our repeated measures for peace.

Speakers at a rally of constructors of Kwangbok street held on february 7, condemned with indignation the U.S. imperialists and the south Korean puppet clique for further aggravating the situation of our country by staging again the "Team Spirit 88" joint military rehearsal, a large-scale test nuclear war.

Today we are bringing about new innovations day by day on every socialist construction site and accelerating peaceful construction for eternal prosperity and happy life of our nation, whereas in south Korea, the aggressors and traitors to the nation are trying to destroy our people's precious creations by brandishing nuclear weapons.

How can we tolerate such manoeuvres? they said indignantly.

Warning that they must look straight at our people's firm will and the situation only not to commit a rash act, the speakers demanded that the U.S. imperialists discontinue war rehearsal and withdraw from south Korea taking along with nuclear weapons at once and the chon tu-hwan-no tae-u group step down without delay before being meted out a severe punishment by history and the nation.

They pointed out that all constructors of Kwangbok street would make a contribution to displaying the might of chuche Korea to the world and accelerating the realization of the country's reunification by pressing ahead with construction of the capital in the spirit with which they smash the U.S. imperialists and their stooges to complete in the main the major construction projects before the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the republic, while always maintaining a strained and mobilized posture to cope with the prevailing situation.

POLITICAL

U.S. Pressure for Market Access Protested

*SK160151 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
16 Feb 88 p 2*

[Text] A number of college students held rallies in Seoul and Taegu Sunday to condemn the U.S. government for its pressure on Korea to open its market widely to U.S. products.

About 1,000 student activists rallied on the compound of the Myongdong Cathedral in downtown Seoul and censured the government for its "surrender" to the U.S. pressure.

The "rally for recovering the people's right for survival" in Seoul was jointly organized by the United Minjung (Masses) Movement for Unification and Democracy and the Council of Seoul Area University Student Representatives.

The ralliers poured into the streets to go to the headquarters of the ruling Democratic Justice Party but were dispersed by police on a Chongno street near Seoul Wedding Hall before they reached their destination.

In Taegu 100 university students staged a sit-in in a downtown section of this southwestern city in protest against the government plans to open the country's market to more U.S. farm products.

Students from four universities in this city—Kyongpuk National, Kyemyong, Taegu and Yongnam—gathered in front of the Taegu Department Store in Tongsong-no around 6:15 p.m. and started the protest.

They distributed to passers-by some 600 leaflets condemning the government for its "concession" to the U.S. market-opening pressure.

Police led away 39 people at the scene, including a Taegu citizen and Kim Yong-chin, an English literature junior at Kyemyong University.

SEOUL SINMUN on Influential Leftist Wall Posters on Campuses

*SK151217 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean
14 Feb 88 p 2*

[Editorial: "How Can Anyone Writes Such Wall Posters?"]

[Text] Wall posters insisting that "the bombing of the Korean Air passenger plane was a deed of the Korean Government" were found on two respectable campuses, one in Seoul and another in the countryside. So preposterous was this allegation that we find it hard to make an issue of it every time such a thing happens. Nevertheless, it is also too absurd to overlook.

The bombing of the Korean Air passenger plane is one of the strangest things ever committed by North Korea, which is increasingly becoming a group that is difficult to understand, like a child who is entertaining a fantasy in a curtained room with a burning candle in broad daylight.

Some people have copied in the wall posters the words of North Korea which accused the South of having bombed the passenger plane, an accusation conceived by the same childish mentality responsible for the utterly preposterous act of blowing up the plane in midair, and have posted them on campuses. Who are they, and why do they do such a thing?

Tht wall posters, made up of about 10 broadsides of Magic-Marked letters, can hardly be considered to be merely a play of words. Student bodies at both universities said they were not responsible for them; therefore, those who had written the wall posters must be insidious elements or student activists, as the police believe. We believe that the police will conduct a very thorough investigation into it and will lay the ax to its root.

However, we have a piece of sincere advice to give to the students for their self-examination.

Whatever it may be, the wall posters on university campus have now become a well-recognized unique form of campus culture. The wall posters have now become so strong that no other mass media can top their influence among students.

If this is the case, the students should exert efforts to build the value-neutral authority of the wall posters on their own. Toward this end, they should not allow themselves to be instrumental in vicious plots or foolish impulses.

If the wall posters were an act committed by insidious forces, what foolish youths the students who allowed themselves to be perpetrators of these insidious forces are! Allowing the wall posters to be used as a source of vicious, groundless rumors fabricaoed with malice by those who have inherited the destructive nature of the extremist student activists runs counter to the ideals of students. What is more, it is immoral to allow the wall posters to be put to bad a use as an indictment against professors in a manner of people's court simply because they have an unfairly ill-founded reputation.

If the wall posters continue to achieve the record of being the undertaker of immoral acts serving the insidious groups as their perpetrator and as a scout to serve their vicious malice, they will lose their legitimacy and trustworthiness. The errors that are made in the process will serve as a burden on the universities. That burden will become a weight on the universities' effort to return to their old selves and serve as an excuse for outside forces to intervene in school affairs.

As soon as such preposterous posters concerning the bombing of the Korean Air plane are put on the walls, Pyongyang Radio will probably seize on them and try to kick up a commotion of frantically quoting them. If this happens, it could paint a picture in the international community of our youths being strange, mentally-retarded children who are under the influence of a fanatic political group's hypnosis. It pains our hearts to think that these youths are contributing to deepening the disease of North Korea, a group of paranoid people who keep them isolated and therefore are hardest among all people of the world to deal with.

It is high time for the courage of sound young men to correct the wrong campus culture. The first urgent step toward this end is to put the walls posters on the right track.

No Tae-u Interviewed by NHK on Foreign, Domestic Policies

OW151957 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1218 GMT 15 Feb 88

["Exclusive" interview with President-elect No Tae-u by NHK senior correspondent Hisanori Isomura on 15 February; Isomura asks questions in Japanese and No answers in Korean, with Japanese translations of No's remarks provided in subtitles; No's remarks in the following text translated directly from the Korean; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Isomura] I haven't seen you for some time. Today I would appreciate it if you would take the time to tell me your views, mainly on foreign policy issues. In ten days you will assume the office of president. I am therefore supposed to address you Your Excellency, but that mode of expression is somewhat old-fashioned, I think. Moreover, I find it not suitable for you, Mr President [of the DJP], for you have frequently said that you would bring an end to authoritarianism. So, please allow me to address you Mister, with profound respect.

[No Tae-u] I feel more grateful than awkward for the understanding on your part.

[Isomura] You have used the word *potong saram* [Korean phrase meaning ordinary person], although my Korean pronunciation is poor. Even during the election campaign, you often said that this is an era for great ordinary people. Also, you have been saying that you will listen to the voices of the people, making clear that you will maintain a so-called low-profile posture or a soft line. You have said that you will carry on that line even after assuming office, but do you think that the people around you will let you do that? The people around you are more likely to put you on a pedestal. Frankly speaking, one cannot deny that there has been a tradition of what could be more aptly described as authoritarianism, I think.

[No Tae-u] Needless to say, I am worried a bit about it. However, as was said earlier, that was what the people desired. Therefore, I believe that their desire will be met, although it will take some time. Moreover, I had been a little worried about it, so when I had an opportunity to meet with members of the cabinet who came to see me at the beginning of the year to offer their new year greetings, I said to them: We must see to it that clean water keeps flowing and that those at the upper reaches do not obstruct the flow to make it stagnant. When I, under the ordinary-person concept, liquidate authoritarianism thoroughly, I continued, Cabinet members should help me and see to it that the clean flow thus created continues down the stream. My earnest plea, I said to them, is that they not make a Don Quixote of me.

That was the way I asked the cabinet members about it. Knowing that public servants in high places are thus endeavoring to bring an end to authoritarianism now, I believe that things will go well.

[Isomura] One thing the Japanese have been most concerned with this year so far is the Korean Airline incident. Did you see the [televised] press interview with Kim Hyon-hui, the suspect in the incident?

[No Tae-u] Yes, I did.

[Isomura] Would you comment on your candid impression?

[No Tae-u] The incident occurred during the election campaign. When I first heard the shocking news, I couldn't conceal my indignation. That was my response then. The great task we face today, however, is preventing a recurrence of any similar incidents. Especially, as you know, since the Olympic Games are being held this fall, we absolutely cannot tolerate any recurrence; we simply cannot imagine allowing such an incident to occur again. With this in mind, I believe that rather than living on with feelings of confusion, anguish, and sadness about the incident, we should make greater efforts to prevent a recurrence. As for Miss Kim Hyon-hui, how vicious were the maneuverings to which she was subjected by the violent gang in the North, and how as human beings they could do such things is difficult to comprehend. Together with these feelings, I feel grateful for the fact that, while our nation of course did its part, Japan as a neighbor also took effective measures in cooperation with us, which we are still discussing, and rendered great help to us in investigating the truth of the incident to prevent such a heinous incident from being repeated on this earth. I believe that the whole world should do its utmost to condemn the incident and prevent a recurrence, and that there should be pressure from all of mankind to discourage North Korea from dreaming of plotting a similar thing again.

[Isomura] Do you plan to announce some bold concessions after assuming office—for instance, on holding North-South talks on sports or approving a unified team? Do you plan to make some big news in that way?

[No Tae-u] The reality is that all our doors are kept wide open for all types of talks, including sports talks, so we can respond whenever North Korea shows interest in them. There may be a misunderstanding on the part of a neighbor that since North Korea is such a troublemaker, we may close all our doors to it. Even after having been subjected to such miserable treatment by North Korea, we, as I said earlier, believe that it is not the will of all the people of North Korea, that it is no more than terrorist behavior by some. For most of the people of North Korea, sports champions in particular, participation in the Olympic games is the greatest goal of their lives. When you think of it that way, you understand how sad it is for them that they cannot participate in the games being held right here, right before their eyes. You cannot but sympathize with them.

Therefore, a unified team is all right; or, North Korea may just take part in the games for itself. Whatever form their participation may take, it is all right. I would like to emphasize again that we are keeping our minds wide open for dialogue in all areas, including talks on sports and the Olympics participation issue, in order to reduce tension and build peace.

[Isomura] Concerning policy toward the North, you, Mr President, have announced the Big Brother [preceding two words in English] policy. Incidentally, among socialist countries Big Brother is the Soviet Union, and therefore I do not think that Big Brother is a very good English translation and the Elder Brother [preceding two words in English] policy may be a better translation. In short, when a comparison is made between the North and South, one may think of the case of East Germany and West Germany where the latter's economy is superior to the former's. The ROK can afford to take care of its younger brother; and the policy you have announced seems to be based on that concept. Would you elaborate on it some more so the Japanese people can have a better understanding of it?

[No Tae-u] Yes, you are right. As you said, when one makes a comparison between our country and North Korea on various things, first of all our population is more than double the North Korean population. In economic power, too, we are ahead of North Korea several-fold. Thus, we have resources to spare. If on top of it all we make the Olympics a success, we will be in a situation where we can very well render more adequate cooperation in foreign policy areas, too. As North Korea sticks to its rigid, defiant posture, on the other hand, it would be impossible to reduce tension if we meet on the same basis. Therefore, as you pointed out, our relationship is not the same as that between the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. As you also pointed out, we are an elder brother and, since we are greater in terms of

economic power as well as population, we will take the position of an elder brother, showing understanding and generosity toward the younger brother to some extent even when the latter misbehaves now and then. We should pursue that sort of policy toward the North. In that connection, the concept of the past concerning so-called cross recognition between North and South Korea was that it had to be realized on a simultaneous basis. The concept should be granted greater flexibility. Even if one side recognizes the other before being recognized by the latter, the result will be the same. If our attitude to North Korea is like this, flexible and generous... [changes thought] We should take that sort of attitude in building peace and working for national unification. That is what I believe.

[Isomura] You have just mentioned the cross-recognition concept, which refers to Japan and the United States recognizing North Korea, and China and the USSR recognizing the ROK. I believe that you mean to say you take a more flexible position on it, that it need not be on a simultaneous basis, and that there can be a difference in time. On the other hand, neither China nor the Soviet Union, which are indeed the Big Brothers to North Korea, are necessarily fully controlling North Korea for their own selfish purposes. You referred to the open-door policy earlier, and in that connection, what is your view of China-North Korean and USSR-North Korean relations?

[No Tae-u] The Olympics are now about to be held here, with China and the Soviet Union participating. This has led to economic exchanges that are already under way and to cultural exchanges. Although this is not a formal establishment of diplomatic relations, exchanges are underway to a considerable extent. This is our present situation. As a result, although China and the USSR in the past included only North Korea in their thinking, the flow of history will make it inevitable for them to have relations with us, the ROK, in the sports, economic, and cultural areas, and also in political and diplomatic matters, too, in the future. If we view the situation this way, it is impossible to imagine relations confined to North Korea, China, and the Soviet Union only. Relations will eventually involve us, the ROK, Japan, and, needless to say, the United States. We should in the future plan for cooperative relations among the six countries, with North and South Korea in the center and the four countries having inseparable relations with them—Japan, China, the Soviet Union and the United States— included. That is what I am pondering.

[Isomura] Do you have any plan to visit China or make a surprise visit to the USSR?

[No Tae-u] As I have said, international developments, particularly various patterns in the recent developments, are pointing to a trend of history, and I feel that we should keep pace with these developments. For that reason, I have discussed relations with China and the

USSR. But a visit alone does not solve problems, does it? Therefore, I should do things in due course and strive for closer relations, not in haste but step-by-step, I believe.

[Isomura] Following the presidential election in your country, and after you were elected, Japanese VIP's came to visit you almost one after another, including LDP Secretary General Abe and former Prime Ministers Fukuda and Nakasone. Prime Minister Takeshita will also be here to attend your inauguration. Also, according to a news item two days ago, JSP Chairwoman Doi has also made it clear that she would like to visit the ROK if she has the opportunity to do so. My first question in this respect is what will be the number one topic you take up with Prime Minister Takeshita when he visits you?

[No Tae-u] Since the visit will be a brief one, I don't think that we will have time to hold any long conversations. However, the friendly relations which our country and Japan have built, the friendly close-and-close relations [as opposed to the so-called close-but-far relationship of the past] we have built should be promoted more and more. On that basis, our country and Japan should in the future perform a role as firm leading partners in promoting the peace and prosperity of the Pacific Rim nations. We should agree on this point, and on that basis we must work to make the Olympics, the greatest immediate task facing us, a success. In this connection, the two nations should, first of all, jointly take thorough measures to prevent terrorism, as we have already discussed. We should then structure a firm partnership through close exchanges in all fields between Japan and our country, as I said earlier. This is my basic view concerning Prime Minister Takeshita's coming visit here.

[Isomura] Will you welcome visits by opposition leaders, too, such as one by Chairwoman Doi?

[No Tae-u] If they visit our country with the basic idea of promoting friendship with us, the ROK, I will of course welcome them.

[Isomura] My last question is on domestic issues. What are your plans on the general election and the date for local elections, which will be held after you assume office? Also, would you comment on what you have been saying about removing sentiments of regional confrontation and promoting national reconciliation.

[No Tae-u] While the outcome of the general election will be determined by the will of our people, what I promised to the people in the 29 June declaration is being put into practice in a steady fashion, and this development is much appreciated by the people. Consequently, I firmly believe that in the general election, too, we will be able to secure a majority in the National Assembly. As you know, what is called the Democratization Promotion Committee was formed as an advisory body for me and it is diligently working for a consensus among the people on ways and means to further put the

29 June declaration firmly into practice as I said earlier—in other words, to carry out democratization and remove frictions between regions, strata, and generations, and thus build a country in which all the people can live in harmony. When the committee comes to compile the findings and make the required recommendations to me, and when they are put into practice, I am convinced that we will be able to shape a future for all the people to be proud of.

[Isomura] I thank you very much for being with me for this interview in spite of your busy schedule at this important pre-inauguration time.

DJP Reported Reviewing Strategy for Election

*SK100112 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
10 Feb 88 p 2*

[Text] The ruling Democratic Justice Party is wholly reviewing its strategy for the coming parliamentary election to meet a new opposition thrust prompted by Kim Yong-sam's resignation as RDP president.

Indications are that the DJP is coming close to holding parliamentary elections before March 25 in a constituency system similar to the present one under which two are elected from each district, informed sources said yesterday.

The sources said that the party would try to adopt the present formula with minor modifications, such as some increases in the number of districts, should rival parties fail to produce a unified revision bill.

The DJP will, however, seek a compromise with the main opposition Reunification Democratic Party with a bold offer of slashing the number of districts electing one each to a two-digit level.

He said that the "final" proposal would feature 40 small districts electing one representative and 110 medium-sized districts electing two, with the number of nine larger ones electing three unchanged.

Under an original DJP scheme, 161 zones will have only one representative each, 41 will have two and nine will have three each.

The RDP has called for the reduction of the number of small constituencies to about 20 for a compromise with the DJP, but the government party has been reluctant to the demand, bringing the interpartisan talks to a snag.

The DJP virtually gave up a "pure" small constituency system, favored by Kim Tae-chung's Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD], which the ruling party has considered as a last card for less trouble-some passage of the bill in an unilateral action.

The change of the DJP's stand came in fear that the small constituency formula would fuel up hectic opposition moves for a merger into a bigger party, possibly under the RDP banner, as sparked by Kim Yong-sam's resignation as RDP head.

Shortly after Kim's sudden action, DJP leaders analyzed its impact on the coming elections and overall political situation.

DJP chairman Chae Mun-sik said, "Our overture (of electing one to three from each district in accordance with population) is the best. But we now have to adopt a second best."

The party's chief negotiator Sim Myong-po also said that its goal is to secure a "51-percent" majority in the National Assembly, "hinting the turnaround.

The party will continue negotiations with the three opposition parties for the time being in what is widely seen as no more than a gesture for compromise.

Yet it is likely to put the modified medium-scale formula through the legislature around the end of the seven-day extraordinary session, scheduled to open today, political observer said.

DJP spokesman Yu Kyong-hyon reaffirmed that the election law should be revised within the session to hold the elections in March.

Revealing that president-elect No Tae-u hoped to see the elections held by the end of March in a talk with Chae Monday, the spokesman said that businessmen also asked for the early vote as wage debates will begin March 25.

DJP Mixed Constituency Labeled 'Gerrymandering'

*SK050050 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
5 Feb 88 p 8*

[Editorial: "Sluggish Bipartisan Negotiations"]

[Text] The present political climate is ironically much like the eve of the December 16 presidential election: The Ruling Democratic Justice Party, strong as ever, is fully prepared to make a showdown with the opposition camp in the upcoming parliamentary elections. But the opposition forces, bitterly divided, both hate and envy each other in the face of their common enemy.

The ruling DJP has tactfully utilized the vulnerable oppositionists. Its negotiators for the revision of the National Assembly Law called their opposition counterparts to bring a united revision plan to the conference table. But chances were slim that the opposition forces would be able to succeed in the project under the present circumstances.

From the outset, the ruling party slyly presented a draft revision calling for a mixed-size constituency system in which one to three lawmakers are elected by popular vote. The plan is designed to elect a single member in each rural and fishery constituency where the party has an advantage, and vice versa, two to three electors, in the major cities where it is handicapped. The plan, no doubt, is to sweep both the urban and rural districts by monopolizing the former and sharing with the opposition parties the latter.

The DJP idea smacks of cunning gerrymandering, unbecoming the majority political force in the country. The party, availing the momentum gathered by its presidential election victory, could have dealt fair and square in the Assembly elections.

Had the DJP brought and pushed steadfastly a clear-cut revision formula with either a single-member or plural-member constituency system, the problem might have been resolved easily. The DJP leadership recently threatened to force its own revision through the Assembly if the opposition parties failed to reach a compromise by the deadline it fixed.

However, such a unilateral action will not be justified at the present. More efforts and patience are needed to negotiate with the opposition parties until supra-partisan agreement is made on an election formula.

Meanwhile, it is a pity to see that the two major opposition parties are engaged in mutual acrimination. The impression is that antagonism and rivalry has become worse lately between Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung. How can the opposition camp wage an effective battle when they and their aides even shun to sit together at any conference table with the ruling party? If they fail to reconcile duly and quickly, they are doomed in the upcoming elections as public sympathy will dwindle as time elapses.

TONG-A ILBO Urges Rational Election Law Negotiations

*SK060716 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean
5 Feb 88 p 2*

[Editorial: "Complications in the Election Law Negotiations—Stop Weighing Self-interest and Return to Principles"]

[Text] We hear that the negotiations for the National Assembly Election Law have again come to a standstill. It is reported that the ruling and opposition parties on 4 February sat together for a negotiation on a party-to-party basis, but failed to attain any progress, as each party adhered to its original position.

Some people are worried that if the political parties continue to waste time they will probably fail to agree on a new election law, and as a result the election will have to be held under the current law.

Since the Election Law is directly connected with the political life of political parties and each individual politician, it seems to be unworkable no matter how hard we urge them to remain aloof from partisan interests and partisan strategies. The Election Law negotiations are such that the negotiators turn a deaf ear to our urgings that they stick to the limits of principles, in consideration of what the people may think of them, and that they not engage in gerrymandering.

Yet, because the time for general elections is drawing near, we cannot just look on. Even though the situation is comparable to that in which one tries to persuade a cow by reading the Bible to it, we should make a few things clear here. No doubt an election law is the product of the contemporary era and is produced through compromise between existing political forces. Nevertheless, the Election Law should be provided from a long-range point of view with an outlook on future politics and political reorganization. The politicians should not commit the mistake of adhering only to their immediate political interest and failing to look ahead several years.

For this reason, in making a decision on whether the small constituency system, the medium constituency system, or the small and medium constituency compromise system is desirable, the existing political parties and politicians should not reflect only their own interests. They should take into consideration not only their own interests but also the interests of the coming generations who will conduct the politics of this country.

Another important aspect to note is that the decision on the type of constituency is not all that matters in the Election Law negotiation. Interests and efforts should be directed to systematic devices to prevent fraud and ensure fairness in the election. During the last presidential election, the opposition party acceded to the Election Law lightly and, after its defeat, took issue with fraud in the election but failed to command enough support from the people. It is a wise step for the opposition parties to take prudent preventive measures with prior business-like review, rather than mending the stall after the cow has been stolen. In particular, in the negotiation for the National Assembly Election Law, serious review should be made to make provisions for minimizing the involvement of money power and government power and for the absentee problem.

If we could succeed in formulating measures to prevent depraved elections by thoroughly precluding the involvement of government power and money power, we think the small constituency system would be the most appropriate system which conforms to the legal concept of the current direct presidential election system. However, no matter what effective systematic measures are taken, the law will turn out to be nothing better than a scrap of paper, as it did in the last presidential election, if the candidates and the voters lack the will to prevent depraved elections.

Everyone knows how difficult it is to provide a satisfactory election law. However, we urge the delegates in the negotiations to do their utmost to make the election law suitable for the present times, no matter how difficult that may be, and to remain faithful to principles and ensure the equal value and proper representation of votes.

Kim Tae-chung Attacks DJP, RDP, U.S. Press Coverage

*SK151312 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean
15 Feb 88 p 2*

[From the "Expanded Tidbits" column]

[Text] Addressing a gathering of metropolitan area members of the Federation of Youths, his strongest support base, on Sunday, 14 February, President of the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] Kim Tae-chung has once again made clear his unwavering stand as to how he would act in the future and then virulently attacked the press, the DJP, and the RDP.

In the meeting held at "The 63 Building" in Yoido, Seoul, approximately 1,500 participants heated up the atmosphere of the meeting by repeatedly shouting their support for Kim Tae-chung. Seeing this, President Kim Tae-chung said: "Almost daily I have been kicked around by the press, so much so that I find it difficult to stand firm. Seeing you here at this gathering, I am encouraged and I think I can gather my strength." He then reaffirmed his former stand that he would step aside after seeing the three—PPD, RDP, and off-stage political forces—merged.

President Kim said: "I can become softer than a pigeon before true public opinion, but under no circumstances can I buckle under to public opinion that is fabricated."

After quoting a proverb that says "a mourner can feel greater sorrow over the death of a person than can the families of the deceased," President Kim said: "While my party members remain quiet, the press gets more noisily excited than them."

He then said: "Jokingly speaking, is not the press badgering me in order to keep me from stepping down from my presidency?"

Referring to the DJP and the United States, he said: "Soon the election frauds made possible by computer manipulation will be laid bare for all to see. At any rate, Mr No Tae-u's win in the election was a fabrication."

He continued: "As if to say that it was waiting for the victory, no sooner had the presidential election been completed than the United States quickly took a shocking and faith-breaching attitude toward the election results. It was extremely regrettable."

Commenting on the RDP, he said: "There should have been a national neutral cabinet to administer a fair presidential election, and the RDP failed to cooperate with us in this regard. The RDP should be held accountable for this by history, without fail."

RDP To Hold Emergency Meetings on Party Course

SK090135 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
9 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] Kim Yong-sam yesterday resigned as president of the Reunification Democratic Party "to pave the way for a grand union of the opposition force" before the general elections.

He said a unified opposition will win the majority in the parliamentary elections to be held in March or April.

"I relinquish the RDP presidency and I will devote what remaining power is at my disposal to an early reunification of the divided opposition." Kim said in a press conference called up yesterday in a hurried manner.

Senior vice president Kim Myong-yun will serve as acting RDP president in accordance the party constitution. Kim did not designate his successor yesterday.

Kim Tae-chung made it clear that he will not immediately follow suit, saying that his Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] will meet the forthcoming general elections under his leadership. PPD spokesman An Tong-son commented that the PPD welcomes the decision "if it is intended to realize genuine reunification of the divided opposition."

The RDP will hold a series of emergency meetings from today to discuss the course of the party without the leadership of Kim Yong-sam.

The meeting will decide whether the RDP should meet the general elections under the acting leadership of Kim Myong-yun, a protege of Kim Yong-sam, or hold a national convention soon to elect a new president.

With the relinquishment of Kim as RDP president, the stalled debate on the merger of the RDP and Kim Tae-chung's PPD will be put on a fresh track, political analysts said.

The RDP decided in a meeting of key post-holders in the afternoon to set up a special body to step up its efforts to unify the opposition.

The sudden announcement caught the rival ruling Democratic Justice Party and the Party for Peace and Democracy by surprise.

DJP chairman Chae Mun-sik said "It was a shock and surprise for Kim to resign the RDP leadership in view of his political career." H refrained from speculating on his motivation.

Kim Yong-sam said that his resignation will provide fresh momentum for the integration of the divided opposition. "It will pave the way for a grand union of the opposition force and for a revolution through the forthcoming legislative elections."

"I hope all democratic forces and politicians in the opposition to transcend their partisan interest and personal ambitions to realize grand reunion of the opposition without any precondition," said the former presidential candidate.

He stressed that opposition integration will give hope and encouragement to the people who are longing for democratization.

Kim warned that the opposition's failure to achieve a grand union before the forthcoming legislative election will bring about an undesirable political landscape whereby the ruling camp holds the majority of the parliamentary seats and reduces the divided opposition to an insignificant political force.

He added that the divided opposition will help the ruling Democratic Justice Party realize its scheme to perpetuate power.

Kim said he felt a deep sense of guilt to the people by failing to field a single opposition candidate in the December presidential election which resulted in the opposition's defeat.

After the announcement, Kim told reporters that his decision was made without any prior consultation with his deputies in the party.

Asked to comment on whether he will meet Kim Tae-chung to debate an opposition merger, he said, "I will do my best as an ordinary party member to ensure that the opposition becomes the largest political force in the general elections."

Senior members of the rival PPD said privately that Kim's resignation is designed to put pressure on rival Kim Tae-chung to withdraw from the PPD leadership, thus paving the way for the divided opposition to reunite, eventually picking him (Kim Yong-sam) up as the new leader.

Kim Tae-chung Rejects Merger
SK130945 Seoul YONHAP in English
0909 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 13 (YONHAP)—Amid negotiations deadlocked over the reunification of the divided opposition camp, Kim Tae-chung virtually rejected the merger of the two major opposition parties on Saturday, citing the need of a policy party.

Kim, president of the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD), told reporters that his party's creation prior to the Dec. 16 presidential election was aimed at forming a policy party, not at his running for the presidency.

The PPD broke away from the main opposition Reunification Democratic Party (RDP) last November as Kim and his rival Kim Yong-sam failed to field a single opposition presidential candidacy.

Kim Tae-chung said it would be meaningless for his party to return to the RDP unless a three-way unity is achieved involving the two parties and dissident forces, which are under his control.

He contended that 82 percent of the Korean people have no political party they wish to support. A party for the conscientious middle class and workers, which shares pains with the masses, can prevent military intervention in the politics and formulate independent diplomatic and unification policies is needed, he said, indicating only his party would meet those requirements.

The existence of such a party could be a way to keep dissident forces from being radical and to prevent communism from taking roots in Korean society, Kim said.

Efforts for an opposition merger had been accelerated by Kim Yong-sam's surprise resignation as president of the main opposition RDP on Feb. 8.

The two Kims have been under pressure to step aside from their leadership posts after their split resulted in the opposition's defeat in the presidential election, in which ruling party nominee, No Tae-u Woo, won with a 37 percent vote.

Kim Yong-sam said he was resigning for the sake of a speedier unification of the opposition.

But Kim Tae-chung said prospects for the grand unification of opposition camps are very dark.

Despite Kim Tae-chung's pessimism, negotiators of the two parties will continue efforts for the proposed merger in a bid to field a unified opposition candidacy for the coming general elections expected in March or April.

RDP, PPD Considering 'Grand Unification'
SK131306 Seoul YONHAP in English
1258 GMT 13 Feb 88

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 13 (YONHAP)—Korea's two major opposition parties Saturday reached a four-point agreement calling for grand unification of the divided opposition camp.

The agreement came in a third round of talks on the proposed opposition merger between negotiators of the Reunification Democratic Party (RDP) and the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD).

The two sides agreed to unite in principle and to form working-level committees to discuss details on the opposition reunification.

The RDP and PPD also agreed to hold a joint meeting of their lawmakers on Monday. Independent lawmakers will be allowed to take part in the combined caucus.

The main opposition RDP accepted the PPD's small constituency system under which one law maker is selected from each electoral district. The ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP) favors an election formula selecting one to three lawmakers from each constituency.

The two parties have been seeking, under mounting popular pressure, to reunite before general elections to be held by the end of April.

The PPD, led by Kim Tae-chung, broke away from the main opposition RDP last November as Kim and his rival Kim Yong-sam failed to agree on who should be the opposition presidential candidate between them.

Efforts for an opposition merger had been accelerated by Kim Yong-sam's surprise resignation as RDP president on Feb. 8.

The two Kims have been under pressure to step aside from their leadership posts after their split resulted in the opposition's defeat in the presidential election, in which ruling party nominee No Tae-u won with a 37 percent vote.

But PPD President Kim Tae-chung, who has been under increasing pressure to step down from the party leadership post following the suit of Kim Yong-sam, voiced pessimism Saturday, saying prospects for the grand unification of opposition camp are very dark.

Kim Tae-chung told reporters that it would be meaningless for his party to return to the RDP unless a three-way unity is achieved involving the two parties and dissident forces, which are under his control.

Daily Quotes Poll in Support of United Opposition Party

SK161144 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean
13 Feb 88 pp 1,2

[Text] It has been shown that a majority of people believe that the opposition parties must be united for the sake of political development in our country and that Mr Kim Yong-sam's resignation from the RDP presidency in an effort to facilitate opposition unity is something good. In a telephone poll jointly conducted by CHOSON ILBO and Korea Gallup on 10-11 February, in which a total of 500 people over 20 years old—252 males and 248 females—were questioned, 79.9 percent of the respondents stated that the opposition parties must be united into one, while no more than 9.1 percent stated that it is not necessary for them to be united. A total of 11.1 percent indicated they had no opinion and 0.2 percent did not answer the question.

No fewer than 62 percent stated that Mr Kim Yong-sam's resignation from the RDP presidency is something good and no more than 9 percent said that it is something bad. However, on this question, 27.8 percent said that they had no opinion. In particular, of the respondents, 43.6 percent of residents of South Kyongsang Province, where Mr Kim Yong-sam comes from, stated that they have no opinion, while almost an equal number of people in South Kyongnam Province said that his resignation is something good.

Meanwhile, over the attitude of Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] President Kim Tae-chung, 55.8 percent of the respondents stated that he must resign from the presidency, while no more than 15.3 percent said that it is good for him to stay in the presidency. A total of 28.7 percent indicated that they had no opinion. However, of the respondents, 35.3 percent of residents of the Cholla Provinces said that PPD President Kim Tae-chung must resign from the presidency, while 42.6 percent said that it would be better for him to stay in the presidency, a pattern that is very different from those of other provinces.

On the type of opposition unity, 53 percent said that the opposition circles must be united into a new party, while 31.6 percent stated that they must be united centering around the RDP and 6.4 percent said that they must be united centering around the PPD.

On the possibility of an opposition party becoming a majority party in the upcoming elections, 79.5 percent said that if the opposition parties are united into a single opposition party, it can become a major party. Meanwhile, 34.9 percent stated that it is very likely and 44.6 percent said that it is somewhat likely. However, 61.5 percent said that if the opposition parties are not united, none of them can become a major party. Meanwhile, 32 percent said that it is rather unlikely and 29.5 percent said that it is most unlikely.

Rival Parties 'Likely To Agree' to Extended Assembly Session

SK151130 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean
15 Feb 88 p 1

[Text] With the negotiations between the rival parties over the National Assembly election law stalled amid the brisk opposition movement to merge the two major opposition parties and with prospects for completing the negotiations before the end of the current special National Assembly session appearing to be thin, the ruling and opposition parties are likely to agree to extend the incumbent session in a meeting of floor leaders scheduled for the afternoon of 15 February.

As the opposition movement to merge opposition parties, including the joint general meeting of the RDP and the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD], began in earnest, the RDP demanded that the discussion of the issue of revising the election law and the incumbent special National Assembly be extended until 23 February. In response to this demand, the DJP has decided to extend the current session until the weekend to settle the negotiations over the election law.

However, the DJP has decided to pass the rewritten election law through the National Assembly after modulating it in a way that can be accepted by the opposition parties if the movement to merge opposition parties fails to make any visible progress and is delayed.

In a meeting of the party's central executive committee held on the morning of 15 February to take measures in this regard, the DJP had spokesman Yu Kyong-hyon issue a statement urging the opposition parties to keep the merger of opposition parties separate from the negotiations over the election law. The spokesman also said that, if they come up with a single draft on revision of the election law, his party would accept it, whatever form it may be.

The meeting of the DJP's central executive committee has also decided that it would also accept it if, before the end of the extended session, the opposition parties jointly come up with a small constituency system in which only one lawmaker is elected; otherwise, it noted, the party will push ahead with its revised draft, the central idea of which is to redraw the electoral districts by which 1 to 3 lawmakers are elected from each district.

Dailies Comment on Kim Yong-sam Resignation From RDP Presidency

Pressure on PPD Seen

SK090045 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
9 Feb 88 p 8

[Editorial: "Kim Yong-sam Resignation"]

[Text] Kim Yong-sam's abrupt announcement of his resignation as president of the major opposition Reunification Democratic Party has come as a surprise. People

are at a loss how to evaluate his action at this crucial juncture. For our part, we would like to recognize positively his courageous determination.

No sooner had he recovered from the nightmare of humiliating defeat in the December 16 presidential election, than he took a series of resolute actions to move the political wheel. But his role and capabilities seem to have reached their limit with the negotiations with the government party and the realignment of opposition forces.

Kim has expressed hope that his resignation will expedite an opposition merger in order to realize what he called true democracy. However, it is yet to be seen how effectively his step will be in addressing the disarray opposition groups are in.

From a positive viewpoint, Kim's action provides momentum for the invigoration of the merger movement that had come to a standstill. But indications are that it may be too late for the rival oppositionists to patch up their grievances and create a united front or single party.

If Kim's overture does not work the way he wishes, his resignation will create an unnecessary stir in the on-going process of opposition regroupings. Kim's remarks, therefore, should leave no room for doubt that they were designed to put his opposition rival Kim Tae-chung on the spot and thus to take the initiative in the political world in preparation for the next presidential election.

Kim Tae-chung, in consequence, comes under pressure to follow suit by resigning as the head of his Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD]. This is because the projected opposition alliance premises the withdrawal of the two Kims in order to avoid a repetition of the failure observed in the presidential elections.

The Kims, as a matter of fact, have played a very important role in the crusade to achieve democratization for the nation. But their persisting rivalry was responsible for their loss in the presidential contest. Accordingly, their future behavior will be closely watched, while public censure will be even severer than in the past if they again disappoint the people through their political ambition.

Call for Unity Within Opposition

*SK110150 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean
9 Feb 88 p 2*

[Editorial: "The Time Has Come for Unity in the Opposition Camp"]

[Text] Mr Kim Yong-sam's resignation as RDP president is not merely a question concerning the political fate of a political leader; nor is it a question that can be viewed as a simple change in connection with the reorganization of an opposition party's leadership. Mr Kim's resignation as RDP president—a shockwave in the

divided opposition camp, which is complicated and knotted at present—can be assessed as strongly implying that it is a political strategy and factor of variation based on the calculation of the foreseen evolution of political confrontation between the ruling and opposition parties and between opposition forces.

In general, our opposition parties currently are faced with three problems: the problem of achieving integration, the problem of changing generations in their leadership, and the problem of remodeling the traits of their members. Mr Kim's determination deserves being recorded in the history of our opposition parties as a momentous and reformative step in that it will pave a wide road for unity in the opposition camp and mark a change in the generations of leadership.

First, it must be noted that his resignation was announced when the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] had just begun to explore a way for an independent and exclusive opposition party by initiating some off-stage figures and when the founding of a new party, which had been covertly sought, was proceeding apace. Also, his resignation can be interpreted as targeting pointblank PPD President Kim's vow that he is willing to withdraw from active leadership according to how moves for the unity of the opposition camp develop and how substantially they proceed.

As a result, we are watching whether Mr Kim Yong-sam's courageous determination will elevate the matter of an opposition camp merger onto a higher stage, thus laying a basis for sound political party-oriented politics, and whether a genuine sense of change will be caused in the leadership of the opposition camp represented by Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung.

If Mr Kim Yong-sam is a politician who genuinely has given in for a "new birth" of the opposition party, merely tendering a resignation does not adequately fulfill his duty. From the position of an ordinary party member who has now been relieved from all restrictions, shackles, and legal obligations, as a "senior of the opposition camp" he is held responsible for pulling down the barriers between his political opponents and comrades and for meeting, embracing, and leading all opposition forces to achieve the unity he desires in the opposition camp.

Furthermore, a merger should not merely be a physical integration of miscellaneous opposition branches, but should seek an amalgamation in which an opposition party as an alternative in taking power should be organized.

From this point of view, we intend to carefully watch the future course in which a new RDP leadership is formed and, in parallel with this, the opposition camp is merged. If the RDP fails to endure Mr Kim's resignation, takes an irresolute attitude even in the process of reshuffling its leadership, and does not show its leadership in the

course of a merger, our opposition parties will, unfortunately, find no ground for standing firm. If no qualitative growth follows a quantitative expansion as a result of a merger, Mr Kim's resignation will be nominal and of little significance.

The opposition camp should finally awaken itself. It has begun to revive the spirit and tradition of the legitimate opposition party which has been almost broken up due to greed for power. Undeniably, Mr Kim's resignation is believed to be an expression of our opposition party's self-cleansing capabilities. Also, we want to assess it as an example of the democratic attitude of being humble to public opinion, which views the present opposition camp critically. On the contrary, Mr Kim Yong-sam has won an opportunity for victory by resigning from the party presidency.

Election Law Revisions in Question

SK100039 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
10 Feb 88 p 8

[Editorial: "Need for Early Negotiations"]

[Text] The sudden resignation of Kim Yong-sam as the president of the opposition Reunification Democratic Party is likely to deal a blow to the bipartisan negotiations on the revision of the National Assembly Election Law. Until now, the ruling Democratic Justice Party and the RDP had cooperated in the on-and-off talks on the revision issue giving the impression that prospects for a compromise before long were good. Now, however, everything is up in the air.

Kim's action was welcomed for its role in the integration of the opposition forces, but the Kim resignation is only doubtfully well timed in view of the opening of the special Assembly session today with its full workload of important legislative programs.

It is to be noted that the two major parties had come near to a compromise on the parliamentary election law revision, particularly on the size of the electoral districts. In the compromise formula, the DJP conceded to reduction of the number of one-member constituencies from 120 to 90, while the RDP agreed to accept 30 (the party had been demanding all plural-member constituencies).

However, the progress in the DJP-RDP talks irritated the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] led by Kim Tae-chung, because it demanded all one-member constituencies. Kim threatened that if the two major parties collaborated to draw up a joint revision that ignored the PPD's demands, his party would launch a popular extra-parliamentary struggle against the two parties.

Kim Yong-sam, in fact, was heading the largest opposition force, but his party's reversal of its original all one-member constituency plan lacked moral justification, especially in view of the fact that the PPD has continually pushed the one-member constituency system from the beginning.

The RDP change in the constituency system may well be criticized as stemming from an obsession with defeat in the forthcoming parliamentary elections, seeing that the multi-member electorates are just made for the runner up, who can thus share electees with the ruling party. In this respect, the RDP has been put in an awkward position and this might in a sense have prompted Kim Yong-sam to step down from the party leadership.

If the opposition forces are bogged down by a power vacuum in the work of realignment for too long, the bipartisan talks may hit further snags.

The Kim resignation will hopefully not cause delay of the ongoing partisan revision negotiations so that the upcoming House session may successfully deal with the revision bill that paves the way for the Assembly election by April, but now greater efforts are needed on all sides. The Assembly, for its part, needs to step up the disposition of the legislative plan in view of the tight schedule: the DJP national convention on Feb. 22, presidential inauguration on Feb. 25, local government elections in summer and the Seoul Olympics in the fall.

Reconciliation Committee Hears Testimony on Kwangju Incident

Citizen Insists Death Count Too Low

SK040146 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
4 Feb 88 p 2

[Text] A Kwangju citizen, injured during the military suppression of a popular uprising in Kwangju in May 1980, yesterday demanded the punishment of those who "drove armed troops into the bloodshed."

Yi Kwang-yong, then a Buddhist monk at a temple near the southern provincial city, insisted on finding "facts" by a "trustworthy" mission prior to compensation for Kwangju victims.

He was presenting his experience and opinion in the first-day hearing at the Democratization and Reconciliation Council [DRC], the ruling party-appointed provisional advisory body for president-elect No Tae-u.

Yi, who was shot in the spinal column and paralyzed in the legs, alleged that the official death toll of 198 in the Kwangju incident is based on the body counts in the morgues of the Christian Hospital, Chonnam University Hospital and Red Cross Hospital alone.

"I tell you that the number of the dead is much greater," Yi said.

He revealed that a driver of garbage truck named Ki Chong-do died in prison soon after he was jailed after the settlement of the bloody uprising, yet the cause of his death remains mysterious.

He said he hears [as printed] from Ki at the Kwangju Mujin Church that he was carrying away bodies in his truck to "some place" for burial. His "leak" of the secret was later detected by investigation agents and he was put in jail and died there, he claimed.

Ending his testimony, he demanded that the members make a "conscious statement," saying that Kwangju citizens regard the DRC only as a "puppet" of the government and the Democratic Justice Party.

He said Kwangju citizens are calling for the formation of a fact-finding body comprising people from all walks of life to unveil the truth of the Kwangju incident.

"Through on-the-spot fact finding, the incident should be redefined as a movement for democracy and military officers involved in the bloodshed should be subject to punishment," he said.

Quoting foreign materials, he named military officers of various ranks from captain to general who he said should be held responsible.

"The victims and the bereaved families of the dead are in dire need of compensation, which is not from personal benevolence of Mr. Chon Tu-hwan or Mr. No Tae-u.

"It is hoped that they will be treated just like victims of the April 19, 1960 Student Revolution and those of a bomb-blast at Aung San (Mausoleum in Rangoon in October 1983 that killed high government officials)," he stressed.

Yi further called for a "repraisal" against the United States, insisting that it "conspired with, or at least abetted, the Kwangju massacre."

"As American officials admitted, the U.S. general here authorized the deployment of four Korean battalions under his control to suppress the uprising," he said, citing it as an example of direct U.S. involvement.

Officials' Testimony Taken

SK050255 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
5 Feb 88 p 2

[“Excerpts” of Kwangju incident testimony before the committee for the promotion of democracy and national reconciliation]

[Text]

So Chon-yol (commander of the martial law forces stationed in Kwangju)

I believe the government's official death toll of nearly 200 is correct. I can say that there was no more than that by staking my personal honor.

I did my utmost to minimize casualties in the military operation to capture the three key places seized by the resisting forces. The three places are the Chollanam-do provincial government office building, Chonil Building and Sajik Park. Three commando units formed of Army paratroopers carried out the job on the morning of May 27.

I earnestly asked over and over again the commando leaders to refrain from excessive action and to minimize casualties. Seventeen of about a 300-strong resistance force were killed during the operation.

Before the operation, I sneaked in an ammunition expert to remove detonators of TNT in the building which the resistance forces had threatened to set off if the martial law forces moved in.

The operations were "inevitable." A majority of Kwangju citizens wanted the martial law forces to take action and to restore order and stability. At the time, the city was in a state of anarchy.

City officials and even police deserted their workplaces, and the streets were empty. There were serious shortages of daily necessities including food and fuel developing across the city. I felt it was fortunate the operations were successful and casualties were less than expected.

Martial law forces checked the bodies of all the dead to determine the cause of their death with a handful of Kwangju citizens. The inspection showed only 46 of the dead had wounds believed to have been caused by M16 rifle bullets. The martial law forces carried only M16 rifles. I was assigned to the regional commander as of 10 a.m. on May 22.

I don't know and can't say what had happened before that. I hope the incident will be smoothly resolved and such tragedy will not be repeated.

Yon Kong-hui (archbishop):

Yon delivered his opinions in a letter.

I would like to thank the members of this committee for the efforts to solve the tragic incident.

I am very concerned about and interested in your activities. What is need first is thorough investigation. An investigation panel should be formed consisting of National Assembly lawmakers elected by free and fair balloting.

According to the results of the panel's investigation, the issue of restoring people's honor and others will naturally be raised. I think it is premature to express my opinion before the investigation is made.

Pae Kon-su (adviser to a group of bereaved families)

Until May 18, 1980, the student demonstrations were peaceful and so nonviolent that even the police protected them.

No tear gas was seen fired.

However, the situation changed when airborne troops moved into the city and used violence against the citizens.

They wielded clubs at innocent people and kicked every young man they found.

The people thought they couldn't be ROK soldiers but north Korean Communists. They were so violent that the citizens feared for their lives. Thus we assembled at the provincial office plaza, with every means to protect ourselves, such as shovels, wooden bars.

On the afternoon of May 20, while we were assembled at the plaza, the troops opened fire from the roofs of high buildings nearby, killing many people.

Angered, some people raided police stations and stole weapons. Although we were armed with rifles, the streets were never in disorder. There were no crimes ... robberies, larcenies.

Kim Song-so (vice president of an organization of injured people)

Three of my family members were shot during the incident, for no reason at all. At the time of the incident, I was a truck driver selling vegetables commuting between Seoul and Kwangju. I was residing in Chindo near Kwangju.

I saw many people being shot by the military, so I tried to escape from Kwangju with my wife and a daughter.

Soldiers guarding the outskirts of the southern city did not allow my family to leave the city, despite repeated pleas to let us go. Taking up guns, the soldiers kicked us when we persistently begged and asked.

In frustration we had to re-enter the city and heard shots from the soldiers behind my truck.

My wife went through three brain operations, and my daughter was confined to a wheelchair, though somehow I recovered.

My wife had been suffering from the gunshot wounds until she died in an accident. All three of us were discharged from the hospital though we still had to be cared for.

As I couldn't and still can't make money, my family has lived in dire poverty since then. All the government did was to give some rice on special national holidays, such as Chusok.

I have petitioned many government agencies but to no avail so far. We the Kwangju citizens are not rioters. Our honor should be restored and due compensation should be paid to all of us.

Commander Admits 'Excessive Force'

*SK100211 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
10 Feb 88 p 2*

[Text] Yi Hui-song, former martial law commander, yesterday admitted that Army paratroopers' excessive use of force in quelling street protests was directly responsible for the 1980 Kwangju tragedy.

The former army chief of staff expressed his deep regret at the disaster in which, according to the official government account, nearly 200 people were killed, also for the first time publicly.

Denying that the U.N. commander contributed troops to control the disturbances in May of 1980, Yi said paratroopers and other Army units outside its operational control took part in the operation.

Yi's testimony on the incident was presented to the Committee for the Promotion of Democracy and National Reconciliation in a seven-page letter.

But he said he did not punish the troops who used excessive force in control operations because severe chaos and a tense situation made it impossible to determine who did so and whether they did so for self-defense or not.

Citing a clause of the Martial Law, Yi said that they were authorized to fire, if necessary, for self-defense.

If they properly exercised the self-defense right (to use weapons) in the early stage of the incident, Yi wistfully said, so many weapons and ammunition would not have been stolen.

Tracing the beginning of the tragic incident, Yi said "it began after about 200 Jeonnam University students indiscriminately attacked the martial law forces with stones at the front gate of the school around 9 a.m. on May 18.

"There are many factors for the Kwangju incident. But a direct cause was the martial law forces' excessive action in putting down the demonstrations," Y said.

Offering his apology, the former martial law commander said, "At the time, no one, including me, expected such a tragic incident could break out. My heart aches to think of it." "Even though the situation was such, I should have solved the sore spots knotted in the Kwangju citizens' hearts. I feel sorry for failing to do so," Yi's letter read.

Heated arguments were exchanged among the committee members on defining the incident and how to heal the scars.

Pak Ok-chai, a committee member representing those wounded in the incident, claimed it should be termed a "heroic civil uprising," an event comparable to the April 19, 1960 Students' Uprising.

Discussions followed three days of testimony by the victims, bereaved family members and then law enforcement officials.

Those responsible should be singled out and punished through court trials, Pak claimed.

But other committee members refuted his claim and suggested moderate proposals to solve it.

Following is excerpts of the committee members' remarks made on the first day of committee discussion.

Pak Ok-chai (47, former journalist and a victim)—Someone should take responsibility for the incident. He or they should be determined and brought to trial. The incident should be recorded in history as an event comparable to the April 19, 1960 Students' Uprising or the Kwangju Students' Uprising of 1926.

President-elect No Tae-u should visit the Mangwol-dong cemetery (where the victims are buried) as a show of repentance.

The Chollanam-do provincial government building where so many youths heroically died should be designated a May 18 memorial hall.

A memorial tower dedicated to the dead should be allowed to be built by Kwangju citizens. Proper compensation should be given to the victims and bereaved families for the material loss and mental pain they experienced.

Yi Kang-hon, 80, an independence fighter—I reviewed the history of the nation's independence movement from Japanese colonial rule for the past 17 years. It is hard to define the Kwangju incident as a heroic uprising. If we termed it a heroic uprising, it would be inconsistent with the nation's history. Instead, it should be known as Kwangju citizens' uprising for democracy. I sympathize with the citizens. Former martial law commander Yi

Hui-song admitted excessive force was used. Those responsible should of course be punished, and those who should apologize should do so.

Yi Pyong-yong, 60, former president of the Korean Bar Association—The April 19, 1960 Students' uprising led to the fall of the Syngman Rhee government. If the Kwangju incident had brought a similar consequence, it could be also defined as a heroic uprising. Then the troops who suppressed the Kwangju citizens should of course be punished. If the Kwangju incident is upgraded to a heroic uprising, it will mandate a search for those responsible and that they be tried in a military court.

We should first decide whether it is possible or not in the current situation. Fifty years or 100 years from now, it could be defined as a heroic uprising. However, it is not our job but that of historians of future generations.

Fact-finding and punishment of those responsible will not help solve the problem. Rather it will create more trouble.

So Yong-hun, 64, former director of Hungsa-dan—We watched video films and heard testimony from the victims and then law enforcement officials.

But they had conflicting views. Before jumping to characterize the incident, we had better review and compare the materials to determine what is correct.

Reconciliation can be achieved only after who was wrong or right is established, and the guilty apologize.

Kim Chae-sun, 64, a politician during the rule of the late President Pak Chong-hui—The Kwangju incident was a by-product of an abnormal political situation which dated back to the Yushin (Revitalization) system imposed by President Pak in 1972.

The Kwangju incident can not be solved through revenge. To seek revenge will bring the nation destruction. It certainly was a movement for democracy. But I don't think the troops went down there to beat and kill the Kwangju citizens. They were forced to do so, I believe. The Kwangju citizens should in part hold themselves responsible because they aggravated the situation by spreading groundless rumors, such as "Troopers from Kyongsang-do came here to terminate the Cholla-do people." The troops were our sons. In a sense, the Kwangju citizens had their honor restored. The Dec. 16 presidential election, the nation's first direct popular election since 1972, resulted from the Kwangju citizens' movement for democracy.

ECONOMIC

Slower Economic Growth, Inflationary Pressure Expected During 1988

41000013 Seoul NEWSREVIEW in English
9 Jan 88 pp 13-14

[Text] Armed with excellent economic performance during the past two years, Korea this year will continue marching toward its ambitious goal—joining the ranks of advanced countries by the end of this century.

Achievements in 1986 and 1987 were spectacular. The Korean economy grew by double-digit rates in both years. The current account, which had suffered chronic deficit, moved into surplus. Even with such a booming economy, the inflation rate remained in single-digit figures.

Thanks to an ever rising current account surplus since 1986, combined with soaring domestic savings, the nation's outstanding foreign debt, which topped \$46.8 billion in 1985, shrank to around \$36 billion last year end.

The current account, which registered a substantial surplus of \$4.6 billion in 1986, for the first time since the nation kicked off a series of ambitious five-year economic plans in the early 1960s, marked another surplus nearing \$10 billion last year.

Domestic savings ratio increased from 28.6 percent in 1985 to 32.8 percent in 1986 and further to an estimated 36 percent last year.

In short, the Korean economy grew 12.5 percent in 1986 and an estimated 13 percent last year. It is the third time for Korea to register double-digit economic growth rates for two consecutive years. The growth rates stood at 11.3 percent in 1968 and 13.8 percent in 1969, 13.4 percent in 1976, 10.7 percent in 1977 and 11.0 percent in 1978.

The Korean economy this year, however, has to tackle a set of problems caused by, among other things, the large current account surplus during the past two years.

The growing surplus in the balance of international payments has already caused inflationary pressure on the Korean economy, combined with rising prices for raw materials on the international market. The inflationary pressure from the current account surplus will be stronger this year as the surplus figure will be bigger than last year if the current trend is left unchecked.

A fellow at the Korea Development Institute (KDI), the nation's economic think tank, says the surplus figure may rise beyond the \$10 billion mark unless the government takes action to curb the rise.

The current account surplus, which stood at \$8 billion during the first 10 months of last year, pushed up the year-to-year growth rate of the total money supply (M_2) to 20.3 percent in October, compared with the government's target of 18 percent.

The ample liquidity situation, caused by the rising current account surplus, will bring about tighter monetary control at a time when fund demands from businesses will rise.

The soaring current account surplus will cause further, more serious trouble—tougher U.S. demands for wider market access and the rapid appreciation of the Korean won.

An official at the Economic Planning Board says the U.S. actions will turn ever tougher as the nation's trade surplus with the American country rises.

The U.S. moves may deal a fatal blow to the Korean economy as the U.S. market takes about 40 percent of all Korean exports.

U.S. economic growth is also feared to slow by one percentage point during the first half of this year, mainly due to the decision to reduce the fiscal deficit in the years to come.

Another problem facing the Korean economy this year concerns employment. Double-digit wage increases following strikes last summer have already discouraged investment on the part of businesses which only worsens the employment situation.

Reflective of the situation, the KDI forecasts that fixed investments will grow 10.8 percent this year, compared with an estimated 13.8 percent growth last year and a 15.0 percent rise in 1986.

To solve the problems, the state-financed economic think tank calls for, among other things, a balance between exports and local consumption. The balance means the derailment of the Korean economy from its export-oriented track.

Its dependence on exports stood at 42.2 percent of GNP in 1986, compared with 13.1 percent for Japan, 6.8 percent for the United States and 32.4 percent for West Germany.

The Korean economy is still faced with explosive public demands for welfare programs, let alone a pan-national medical insurance system, a national pension system and a minimum-wage system to be inaugurated this year.

The KDI recommends the nation's current account surplus be maintained at a level equivalent to five percent of the gross national product (GNP).

A first-priority policy accent will likely be placed on curbing the current account surplus at that level (\$5-6 billion), through active local investments designed to spur imports and a wider opening of the local market to foreign goods and services.

Also expected are public works projects designed to create new jobs.

With these and other policy measures implemented successfully, the KDI predicts the Korean economy will most likely grow 8.5 percent this year, with the current account surplus curbed at \$6.5 billion.

Under the KDI projections, commodity exports this year will stand at \$52.2 billion and imports at \$48.7 billion.

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'Urgent' Inflation Curbs Seen Necessary for Economic Stability

SK050055 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
5 Feb 88 p 8

[Editorial: "Steps to Curb Inflation"]

[Text] Soaring prices clearly signal that the country is facing a grave inflationary threat. Its hard-won economic stability may soon be in jeopardy unless urgent steps are taken to curb price rises.

Changes in the consumer price index are indicative of the seriousness of the situation. Consumer prices rose 0.9 percent in December and over 1 percent in January, amounting to a 10-percent annual increase. This double digit increase far exceeds the original target of 4-5 percent set by the government.

Agricultural products, food items, daily living necessities and service charges lead the price hikes. A Korean cabbage that retailed for 500 won last month, for example, now costs 1,700 won. The upward readjustment of the fees for public transportation and utilities, and increased salaries for government employees may have partly contributed to the inflationary spiral.

Rampant real estate speculation touched off by the projected west coast development is producing a chain effect, raising the prices of urban apartments by nearly 20 percent in some instances. Speculative activities and an inflationary psychology also prevail in the stock market. The daily increase of some 10,000 new investors is attributable to soaring stock prices and illustrates the overbought state of the market.

None of these factors forecast a comforting economic future; they herald a vicious inflationary cycle. Critical to this negative trend is liquidity, which has already exceeded the projected growth limit. The surplus and

election spending last year are, of course, major causes for the present 22.5 percent annual rise in the money supply, 4.5 percentage points above the target of 18 percent.

The composite picture of these negative factors is ominous. To look to future economic factors is no more consoling: festivities on lunar new Year's Day this month, the government transition, parliamentary elections, local elections, and the 1988 Olympic Games will inordinately exacerbate inflationary pressures.

Measures to arrest inflation should therefore include greater use of monetary stabilization bonds to control excess liquidity. Credits and loans together with trade subsidies must be drastically squeezed. Trade surpluses may also need to be kept at an optimum level and imports may have to be expanded so as to lessen mounting inflationary burden.

No less important than the coordination of these economic policies is the political resolution of the general public to view economic issues as a suprapartisan concern. Election promises requiring large public spending may have to be reviewed, and transitional administrative slackness should not be abused by self-seeking individuals. The governing consideration here is that economic stability is the linchpin of political stability, the foremost imperative for our nation.

SOCIAL

Seven Newspapers Register for Business Permits

SK090303 Seoul YONHAP in English
0240 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 9 (YONHAP)—A total of seven new daily newspapers have applied to the ministry of culture and information for registration as businesses since the abolishment of the basic press law, officials said Tuesday.

Chungang Economic Daily News, Pusan Economic Daily and Chung-To Ilbo filed applications with the ministry last week, following the Hangyore, Incheon, Kyonggi, and Kyongbuk daily newspapers which completed their applications last month.

The basic press law, which had blocked the establishment of new newspapers and periodicals for almost seven years, was abolished last November. It is to be replaced by a new registration law which will pave the way for the unrestricted publication of new newspapers and periodicals.

Besides these newspapers, about 10 other new daily newspapers are laying the groundwork for their publication, the officials said.

The ministry will issue registration certificates to the papers around Feb. 20 when the implementation rules for the revised press law are worked out and promulgated, they added.

Economic Paper To Resume Publication

*SK140239 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
14 Feb 88 p 1*

[Text] The Korea Times-Hanguk Ilbo will resume the publication of its sister economic daily, The Seoul Kyongje Sinmun, this year, eight years after its closure on Nov. 25, 1980.

Publishing its first issue on Aug. 10 1960, the paper enjoyed the largest readership as the nation's oldest and most dependable economic daily when it was closed under a government measure to realign the press.

The economic daily, founded by the late Chang Ki-yong, founder-publisher of Hanguk Ilbo, witnessed all the ups and downs of the nation's economic performance throughout its 20 years of publication.

Application for the resumption of the publication of the Seoul Kyongje was made with the renewed determination to better serve readers in a new era.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Research Institute for Basic Science To Be Opened in Taedok Science Town

*41070032 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean
13 Jan 88 p 8*

[Text] The critical need for a basic science research facility has prompted the South Korean Government to invest in a center where concentrated, cooperative research work in the basic sciences can be carried out, rather than providing financial support to various university research labs.

A study, noting that South Korea does not have even a single Nobel prize winner despite the country's accumulated technologies, came to the conclusion that the country is far behind other countries in the basic sciences and needs a basic science research facility.

Up to now, the country has stressed the development of product orientated technologies, but now, without a foundation in the basic sciences, higher technologies nor applications cannot be achieved.

The Ministry of Science and Technology plans to invest approximately 38 billion won in procuring equipment and materials, and about 130 research scientists are to be recruited by the year 1991. The institute's name plate hanging ceremony is scheduled for February 1988; the

remainder of the year is to be spent making preparations. The advance committee of 30 researchers is selecting equipment and materials and working out the institute's operational policies.

The research equipment and materials will be managed as the joint property of the science community (universities and private industries), so the researchers from various organizations and fields using the institute's facility can better cooperate on certain projects. A timeshare schedule for some expensive equipment is already set up to maximize efficient usage.

The institute will consist of four research centers in Physics, Mathematics, Biology and Chemistry, and its priority tasks will include superconductivity, lasers and accelerators.

The Ministry hopes that the establishment of a basic science research center will encourage the study of basic sciences and result in achievements with industrial applicability.

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FOREIGN RELATIONS, TRADE

CHOSON ILBO Criticizes Gephardt Assertions

*SK131150 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean
12 Feb 88 p 2*

[Editorial: "Error of Congressman Gerphardt"]

[Text] The "calculated error" of Congressman Gephardt, presidential candidate of the U.S. Democratic Party, seems to have at least contributed to his success in the initial stage of the elections. Through a television advertisement that made it seem as though the U.S. economic failure was caused by Korea's wicked protectionism, he won popularity and even obtained first place during the preliminary elections in Iowa.

Needless to say, we are not interested in which candidate the U.S. voters choose. Also, we are not interested in how close to the truth are the materials and data which serve as the basis for their choice. However, we cannot but pay attention to and have deep concern about the reality in which international trade and protectionism emerged as an important point at issue in the course of their elections.

From the viewpoint that the world economy's current decline into a state of crisis is caused precisely by each nation's competitive protectionism and disputes over currency and that the solution of such problems basically through economic theory, not through political theory, is reasonable, it can be considered to be a matter of concern that protectionism has been assumed as the point at issue for the elections.

Election issues are often apt to be exaggerated or distorted in many cases, and an international trade dispute can be regarded as the issue which has such a basis. We believe that Korea's protectionism, which Congressman Gephardt assumed as an election issue, is partly exaggerated and partly distorted. Thus, we cannot but view seriously the fact that such exaggeration and distortion dulled the U.S. voters' judgment and greatly spoiled Korea's image.

We have no other view but that unfair trade should be improved and world trade should become more free; however, in reality, to reach such a stage, each nation has to take a different course to a certain extent because nations have different historic and practical conditions. From this viewpoint, we think that Congressman Gephardt chose an unfair point of dispute and exaggerated it, resulting in further instigating protectionism, not free trade.

We think that although he has the right to aim at the position in the White House, he has no right to distort unjustly Korea's effort to pay foreign debts through hard work and frugality nor has he the right to spoil Korea's image. We are well aware that Korea's trade practices need to be further improved; however, we do not think that such practices are an example of unfair trade or serve as the cause of the U.S. economic failure. Thus, Gephardt's far-fetched interpretation will not contribute to the two nations' mutual interests but will instead present a bad description for the recovery of the U.S. economy.

On the other hand, we think that there is also a problem in the attitude assumed by our government after this issue was raised. If our government was aware of how Korea's restrictions on the import of cars were exaggerated and of the harmful results that would be brought about by such an erroneous understanding, it should have taken appropriate steps more promptly. Many people are anxious about what measures have been taken by the authorities concerned to cope with this situation.

Cigarette Negotiations With U.S. Fail
SK161211 Seoul YONHAP in English
1157 GMT 16 Feb 88

[Text] Washington, Feb. 15 (YONHAP)—South Korean and U.S. officials ended their six-day negotiations Monday on the sale of U.S. cigarettes in Korea without an agreement.

The two sides discussed the matter of reducing the retail prices of U.S. cigarettes in Korea, distribution methods and advertisements but failed to reach any concrete agreements, the chief Korean negotiator said.

Pak Sang-un, director of the Finance Ministry's National Treasury Bureau, told reporters here the Korean side suggested that the Korean government would levy the same tax amount on both U.S. and Korean cigarettes and the U.S. side responded favorably.

The tax will be 360 won (about 0.464 U.S. dollar, one U.S. dollar is worth about 775 won) for each pack of 20 cigarettes. at present, about 900 won is levied on imported cigarettes as tariffs and various taxes.

When the uniform tax is applied to U.S. cigarettes, the price of imported cigarettes will drop from the present 1,300 won per pack to 820 won per pack, he said.

The U.S. side requested that the tax imposed on U.S. cigarettes be reduced to 300 won per pack but did not oppose the Korean offer of 360 won per pack for both Korean and U.S. cigarettes, according to Pak.

As for distribution channels, South Korea suggested that U.S. cigarettes be imported and distributed in Korea by wholesale or individual distributors, who have only to report to the Korea monopoly corporation, while the U.S. side demanded an unrestricted distribution system.

At present, the Korea monopoly corporation fully controls the importation and distribution of foreign cigarettes. The sale of tobacco in South Korea is a government monopoly.

On the advertisement of U.S. cigarettes in Korea, the U.S. side showed a positive response to the Korean suggestion that U.S. cigarette companies should not be allowed to advertise their products on television or in newspapers but should be allowed to advertise in magazines, except for those intended for juveniles and women.

The U.S. side expressed hope for the establishment of a joint-venture cigarette manufacturing plant in Korea but the Korean side rejected the proposal, he said.

Daily Urges 'Farsighted' Measures To Handle Trade Disputes
SK050759 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean
4 Feb 88 p 2

[Editorial: "A Farsighted Measure Should Be Worked Out: There Is No Need to Be Optimistic or Pessimistic Over ROK-U.S. Trade"]

[Text] What has become conspicuous in ROK-U.S. trade relations after entering this year is the threat of section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act.

In the past, of course, there has been an instance where a suit was filed against us invoking section 301 in connection with the copyright and film market issues, and the

matter was settled through negotiations. Until that time, however, the United States still seemed to be exercising self-restraint in resorting to section 301.

It now seems that the basic U.S. stand has drastically changed.

We thought that such ROK-U.S. pending issues as cigarettes and beef and the copyright issue over unauthorized reproduction could be properly settled through negotiations. Thus, we have done our best so that the U.S. side would also gain practical profits.

Nonetheless, the United States is moving forward in a direction far from our expectations.

It is continuing to threaten the mobilization of section 301, and is persisting in its stand to take retaliatory steps, if Korea does not accommodate all of its demands.

On 2 January, the U.S. Administration decided to launch a probe to take retaliatory steps through section 301 over the ROK's cigarette import policy. In addition, there is a growing possibility that the U.S. Administration will make another similar decision, if the concerned U.S. business circles file a suit against Korea under section 301 over the question of the ROK's beef market opening. The U.S. publication circles have filed a petition to invoke section 301, maintaining that their copyrights are not protected in Korea, as had been promised.

Upon the U.S. decision to invoke section 301 over the issue of our cigarette market opening, we feel frustration, because it seems that mutual efforts exerted for negotiation and settlement have become unprofitable, and we even feel resentment, because it seems that section 301 is being used as an almighty weapon. In particular, the decision was hurriedly made only about 10 days after the suit was filed, although decisions to invoke section 301 are supposedly to be made within 45 days after a suit is filed by the business circles concerned. So this was an unusual decision.

Even if section 301 is invoked, there is still room for an appropriate settlement, because it will take one year for negotiations to decide on retaliation.

One thing we would like to stress is that no one should ever make the rash judgment that everything will be smoothly settled, if threatened with section 301. At the same time, we would like to stress that the ROK Government need not unnecessarily shrink before section 301.

Judging from the growing U.S. trade pressure, it is expected that the threat of section 301 will continue.

With the situation as it is, we should not be optimistic sometimes and pessimistic at others over specific issues in ROK-U.S. trade relations but should work out far-sighted and self-governing measures. And it is important to be consistent in implementing adopted measures.

Efforts should be made to settle the pending issues with the United States in such a way as to harmonize our practical interest and national consensus.

To this end, it is necessary to work out new measures to maintain our economic relations with the United States under the given conditions.

There is no question that the extreme U.S. economic pressure is something unpleasant. But there are also many causes for introspection in our foreign trade policy. At the same time, with far-reaching views, we should hurry to restructure our industrial framework and system according to the changing international situation.

As we see in the cigarette issue, we will be unable to maintain our monopoly system. We should enhance our competitiveness through privatization and get ready to go on the offensive, rather than being defensive.

Direct Commercial Ties With PRC Desired by Various Industries

*41000015 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
22 Jan 88 p 6*

[Article by Park Hang-hwan, staff reporter: "Trade Wind Blows Strong Toward China; Economic Organizations Prepare for Direct Commercial Ties"]

[Text] The "China wind" blowing over Korea's economic front is prompting domestic businesses to seek out private commercial links with the Communist country.

Seoul's open commercial wooing of Beijing, cherished yet untouchable just one year ago, began with President-elect Roh Tae-woo's remark early this month that he hopes the two countries will open trade offices in each other's capital after the Seoul Olympics in September.

Since then, Korean firms have been caught up in pursuit of business ties with the pro-Pyongyang country with huge economic potential.

It is no secret that Korea and China trade via Hong Kong, although neither government openly acknowledges it.

Indirect trade between the two countries reportedly surpassed \$1 billion in 1987.

"The '88 Seoul Olympics will be a landmark in the process of firming up the commercial ties with China, which will send a large delegation to the Olympiad," an analyst here said.

"We need to prepare for such developments," he noted.

In a press conference Jan. 4, Koo Cha-kyung, chairman of the Federation of Korean Industries (FKI), triggered the China wind by saying, "We, the business leaders, will activate a Korea-China trade consultative body under the FKI wing in February or March to push for exchange of capital, technology and industrial goods with the Communist country."

His remarks won a quick response from Korea's business community.

After the press conference, many businessmen expressed their willingness to join the proposed consultative body.

Korean traders see China as a growing market for industrial goods as they seek to reduce dependence on the United States and Japan.

China views Korea as a reservoir of capital and expertise. The northern coastal provinces of China traditionally traded with Korea but have attracted relatively little investment from Hong Kong and the West, the analyst said.

The potential for the two countries to expand their commercial links is great. Koreans' fever for China is a "matter of course," he said.

The proposed FKI consultative body will exchange China-related business information between domestic businesses.

It will be a "trade window" with China.

FKI officials will contact the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce to learn more about the Chinese trading system.

The Korea Foreign Trade Association (KFTA) will upgrade its Trade Monitoring Committee to cover more Chinese affairs.

It will also urge the government to allow Korean and Chinese firms to deal directly.

"We will seek a cautious yet gradual improvement in its commercial ties with China. As it stands now, sudden breakthrough in the relations with the Communist country is unlikely," a KFTA official said.

The Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) recently signed a business cooperation arrangement with the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce, the first with an East-bloc country.

Encouraged by the agreement, KCCI will try to cement private-level trade links with China.

It plans to reorganize a task force at its International Trade Department to research trade with China, and will also strengthen research on China through the Korea Economic Research Center.

The Korea Commercial Arbitration Board (KCAB) has begun studying the commercial arbitration system of China to prepare for trade disputes in the future.

The Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (KOTRA) will soon reorganize its special-region trade section into an independent body to focus on Chinese affairs.

It will publish a booklet on the Chinese economic system next month to help domestic traders.

The nation's big-name conglomerates are in high gear to prepare for direct trade with China.

Samsung Co. has upgraded its Hong Kong-based branch office into a locally incorporated body in a "warming-up" gesture.

It has also begun Chinese-language courses for its staff.

Hyundai, Lucky-Goldstar, and Sunkyoung will set up new bodies responsible for China and expand existing organizations.

The most promising Korean export items to China include color TV sets, refrigerators, sundry goods, tires, machinery products, steel and fertilizers.

Among the likely import items from China are coal, grains and other raw materials.

In a recent report, the Korea Institute for Economics and Technology (KIET) said Korean and Chinese concerns need to sign private trade agreements to expand two-way trade.

A joint-venture with a third country will also help Korean concerns enter China, it said.

KIET said Chinese imports from the West expanded at an average annual rate of 16.9 percent between 1978 and 1985, and exports at a rate of 17.7 percent.

The Chinese government projects its gross national product (GNP) to grow 5.5 percent annually between now and 2000 to \$800.

It is planning to expand its infrastructure, which could provide Korean contractors an opportunity to advance into China, the report said.

However, the KIET report is skeptical that trade with China will expand rapidly in the foreseeable future.

Beijing remains fearful of the Soviet Union and is expected to avoid any move that risks making North Korea a second Vietnam—a pro-Soviet state in China's traditional sphere of influence.

China is a lucrative and promising market for Korea. However, it should be approached in a practical and cautious manner, the report said.

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Editorial Asserts Japan Needs Strong Position To Deal With North

SK110153 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
11 Feb 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Abduction Speciality"]

[Text] Testimony of Kim Hyong-hui has brought to light the involvement of a Japanese woman abducted to north Korea in the training of north Korean agents. The disclosure is an alarming insight into the lengths to which the spy machine in Pyongyang is willing to go, in contravention of international law and code of conduct, to attain its revolutionary ends.

The Japanese woman, under a Korean pseudonym of Yi Eunhye, taught Japanese language and lifestyle to Miss Kim, who confessed to blowing up a Korean Air jetliner last November, killing more than 100 passengers and crewmen. Yi told Kim she had been kidnapped to north Korea from a beach near Tokyo.

If the alleged violation of Japanese sovereignty is confirmed, Japan is bound to impose stiffer sanctions against north Korea and seek the repatriation of the Japanese woman.

The latest expose must have brought home to the Japanese government and people that they should now act to keep their territory and nationals from being exploited as a base of espionage and sabotage for north Korean Communists. The presence of a large community of pro-Pyongyang Koreans there and the permissive law and attitude of Japan toward such crimes has made Japan a virtual haven and staging ground for international spies and subversives.

Tokyo has taken a few measures to sanction Pyongyang to condemn and punish it for terrorism in the destruction of a Korean civil airliner. But such a lukewarm response is hardly going to teach militant north Korea a lesson. The latest revelation of north Korea's subversion of Japanese sovereignty obliges Japan to take decisive counteraction.

Besides Yi, about 20 Japanese and other foreign women are believed being held in north Korea to help instruct secret agents. Mostly in their twenties, these women were forcibly taken or lured to North Korea through Hong Kong, Switzerland, the Middle East and Japan.

A probe into north Korea's breach of international law, involving the mobilization of foreign nationals in surreptitious and destructive activity against their will, should not be confined to the case of Yi. It may extend to more victims from other countries besides Japan.

Overlooking crimes and condoning atrocities won't strengthen the bargaining leverage vis-a-vis the recalcitrant and impenitent north Koreans. It will only result in appeasing and emboldening the militants.

Negotiations for the release of two Japanese sailors seized in north Korea should be conducted in this light. Only a show of firmness and a position of strength works on north Koreans.

CHUNGANG ILBO Hails Warming Between Korea, Vietnam

SK040202 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean
2 Feb 88 p 2

[Editorial: "Sentimental Mood Caused by the Contrast Between the Past and Present in Korea-Vietnam Ties; Efforts Should Be Made for Practical Diplomacy After Throwing Off an Unfortunate Affinity"]

[Text] Foreign news reports from Hanoi saying that a Korean economic delegation will soon visit Vietnam is generating a sentimental mood caused by the contrast between the past and present in Korea-Vietnam ties, which have changed over the past 20 years.

The first encounter between Korea and Vietnam during the Vietnam war was an unfortunate relationship from both sides' point of view. Because it was a product of the callous situation called the cold war between the East and West, the first encounter between Korea and Vietnam is something that must be returned to normal diplomatic relations. We hope that our economic delegation's visit to Vietnam, if it ever materializes, will serve as the first step toward such a felicitous event.

Conditions needed to open a new chapter in Korea-Vietnam ties have already been provided. The new relationship that the Soviet Union and communist China began to forge with the West, casting aside ideological differences, has broadened the room for their communist neighbors, such as Vietnam, to maneuver. In addition, Vietnam itself has already paved the way for such changes.

The Vietnamese Communist Party Congress which convened in December 1986 elected as party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh, a pragmatist who advocates a policy of opening up, thus pushing aside the doctrinist revolutionary leaders who carried out the Vietnam war. With this reorganization in its leadership, Vietnam has embarked upon the road of rebuilding the country with a premium placed on the economy, as the Soviet Union and communist China have done, by overcoming its past infatuation with the theory of national liberation.

Later, in the latter half of 1987, Vietnam adopted a bold law governing economic development with foreign countries which allows foreign investors to set up joint ventures in Vietnam with foreign investors holding 99 percent of the stock. The day this law was passed, Vice Premier Vo Van Kiet explained: Vietnam needs this law in order to introduce foreign capital from other countries, regardless of their being socialist or non-socialist.

Vietnam seeks to achieve three goals by 1990 through rebuilding its ruined economy: the self-supplied production of food, the smooth supply of consumer goods, and an increased amount of foreign exchange holdings through exports.

Vietnam urgently needs foreign exchange to achieve such goals. The Vietnamese authorities are so enthusiastic about earning hard foreign currency that they not only welcome tourists from the West, but also apply a privileged exchange rate to money sent by the so-called "boat people" who have turned their backs on their fatherland.

This pressing need of Vietnam's will undoubtedly be a factor in forming lasting economic ties between Korea and Vietnam. Vietnam's decision to participate in the Seoul Olympics can be the signal of this.

However, our expectations for Korea-Vietnam relations, which we will establish sooner or later, go beyond the narrow boundary of economic interests. Vietnam is one of the last doctrinist communist countries in Asia, which includes North Korea. When this country extricates itself from the stubborn ideological yoke and establishes open relations with its Asian neighbors based on a pragmatist line, what impact will it have on North Korea, the last hermetic country in this region? We must think of this.

To hope for some change in North Korea is a pipe dream so long as the current leadership stays in power. However, changes will inevitably occur in North Korea in the post-Kim Il-song era, according to some North Korea-watchers.

In this context, Vietnam's example may probably have greater impact on North Korea than on communist China or the Soviet Union.

Because of such a possibility, in addition to the possibility of casting aside the unfortunate relation our two countries once had, we value the cautious movement toward the establishment of Korea-Vietnam ties all the more.

Finance Minister Denies Market Opening Rumor
SK040205 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
4 Feb 88 p 6

[Text] The government has no plans to completely open the capital market to foreign investors, the Ministry of Finance (MOF) announced yesterday.

Chong Jung-ki, the MOF spokesman, said, "Now is not the proper time for the nation to allow foreign investors to freely buy and sell stocks listed on the Korea Stock Exchange (KSE)."

The comment came after a vernacular daily Tuesday reported that foreigners would be allowed to freely invest in the Korean stock market by the end of this year, and the remittance of investment returns would be liberalized.

At present, foreign banks or insurance companies operating here are allowed to invest in the Korean stock market. Individual foreigners also can do so if they have been residing here for more than six months, but the remittance of profits is restricted.

The nation has been gradually opening its capital market to foreigners in line with the pace of its economic development, but it has no plan to liberalize the market at one shot, the spokesman said.

"The Korean stock market is presently prepared to accept free foreign investment now," he said.

The nation will continue its ongoing liberalization program on a step-by-step basis according to the pace of liberalization of the foreign exchange market and other service sectors, Chong said.

So far, the nation has allowed foreigners to indirectly invest \$385 million in the Korean stock market.

The nation's three investment and trust companies issued \$145 million worth of beneficiary certificates to foreigners between 1981 and 1986.

It also inaugurated two closed-end type investment funds for foreigners—Korea Fund (\$100 million) and Korea Euro Fund (\$30 million) in 1984 and 1987, respectively.

The country's four largest private companies—Samsung Electronics Co., Daewoo Heavy Industries Co., Yukong, Ltd. and Goldstar Co.—issued \$110 million worth of convertible bonds to foreigners between 1985 and 1987.

Trade Account Surplus 'Soared' in 1987

SK090225 Seoul YONHAP in English
0209 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 9 (YONHAP)—Fueled by steady export growth, south Korea's current account surplus soared to 9.78 billion u.s. dollars in 1987 more than doubling the figure of a year earlier when the account moved into the black for the first time.

A tentative tally by the Bank of Korea (BOK) showed Tuesday that the surplus grew in 1987 by 5.16 billion dollars or 110.5 percent from the 4.62 billion dollars of a year before.

The BOK tally also showed that the country's trade surplus rose by 81.7 percent or 3.44 billion dollars from a year earlier to 7.65 billion dollars in 1987.

The tally showed that in 1987, Korea's exports grew 36.2 percent over the year before to 46.18 billion dollars while imports climbed 29.7 percent to 38.53 billion dollars.

The invisible trade account, which registered 630 million dollars in the red in 1986, moved into the black with a surplus of 950 million dollars last year due to increased tourism and freight revenues and decreased repayments of foreign loans.

A drastic upsurge in the number of foreign tourists traveling to Korea raised the country's tourism revenue from 1.54 billion dollars a year earlier to 2.29 billion dollars in 1987 while Koreans spent only 704 million dollars on their foreign trips.

The recovery of the overseas construction business boosted construction revenue by 57.9 percent to 1.03 billion dollars last year.

The surplus in the transfer account also rose 13.5 percent to 1.18 billion dollars in 1987 due to the persistent growth of remittances from Koreans living abroad.

In capital transactions, advance repayments of long-term foreign loans continued for the second year in a row with repayments exceeding the money borrowed by more than 5.84 billion dollars in 1987 compared with 2.05 billion dollars recorded a year earlier.

Meanwhile, the central bank tally also showed that the country's chronic trade deficit with Japan narrowed by 220 million dollars to 5.22 billion dollars in 1987 while the trade surplus with the United States widened by 2.21 billion dollars to 9.55 billion dollars.

The trade surplus with the European community also rose from 1.09 billion dollars in 1986 to 1.98 billion dollars last year, according to the BOK tally.

ROK Exporters Fear Reduction of Export Quotas
SK110755 Seoul YONHAP in English
0737 GMT 11 Feb 88

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 11 (YONHAP)—Some south Korean exporters are facing a serious dilemma because domestic and foreign shipping firms have not met the date for delivering their textile and fiber exports to the United States, industry sources said Thursday.

The sources said some goods of the 1987 quota shipped from Korean ports after the end of last year were left at U.S. ports due to the refusal of the U.S. customs office to proceed with customs clearance procedures.

It is feared that Korea's textile and fiber export quota for the U.S. market could be reduced sharply this year because Korean exports did not fill the quota volume. Under a bilateral agreement, the U.S. government can reduce the quota by twice as much as the difference in volume between the granted quota and the real export volume.

Some Korean exporters including Daewoo Corp., Samsung Co. and Sunkyong Ltd., and six shipping lines including American president lines (apl) of the United States, Hyundai merchant marine co. (Korea), Yamashita Shin Nihon steam ship co. (Japan) and Mitsui O.S.K. lines (Japan), are reportedly connected to the case.

The sources said Apl's freight ship President Taft could not load a total of 36 containers filled with Korean textile goods bound for the United States when it departed from the southern Korean port of Pusan on Dec. 31 last year.

The containers were loaded aboard the President Grant, another APL liner, on Jan. 3 this year and APL voluntarily informed the U.S. government of this fact while also requesting that those containers benefit from the quota agreement.

The sources said, however, that the U.S. commerce department rejected the request. The deadline for quota goods bound for the U.S. market was Dec. 31 determined on the basis of the goods' departure date from the exporting country.

The sources also said that the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) revealed that some shipping firms allegedly manipulated a shipping document to show that their ships departed from Korean ports in late December last year although the ships' departure dates were in early January this year.

Meanwhile, the Korean government requested that the U.S. government permit the importation of those exports under the quota, but the commerce department reportedly refused that request.

MILITARY

NODONG SINMUN Article on Publication of People's Army Articles

*SK090605 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0451 GMT 9 Feb 88*

["Highly Important Guideline for Strengthening People's Army"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 9 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN Monday dedicated a signed article to the 30th anniversary of the publication of "the Korean People's Army has inherited the anti-Japanese armed struggle," to the 25th anniversary of the publication of "Our People's Army Is an Army of the Working Class, an Army of the Revolution; Class and Political Education Should Be Continuously Strengthened" and to the 15th anniversary of the publication of "unity Based on Revolutionary Comradeship is the source of the invincibility of the People's Army," historical works of the respected leader Comrade Kim il-song.

The article says:

In these works the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song gave a scientific analysis of the prevailing situation and of the practical experience of our revolution and, on this basis, comprehensively answered theoretical and practical questions arising in strengthening and developing the Korean People's Army into invincible revolutionary armed forces.

Emphasized in the works is the important idea that the Korean People's Army should be strengthened and developed into staunch defenders of the party's cause by successfully inheriting the glorious revolutionary traditions of the anti-Japanese struggle, keeping to its class nature as an army of the working class, a revolutionary army and strengthening unity and cohesion based on revolutionary comradeship;

The works made it clear that the KPA has inherited the glorious anti-Japanese armed struggle, and gave answers to questions of principle in successfully carrying forward and developing the revolutionary traditions of the anti-Japanese struggle. They also expounded the problem of making the People's Army an army of the party, an army of the working class, through intensified class and political education and indicated highly important guidelines for increasing the might of the kpa in every way by giving full play to the traditional traits of revolutionary comradeship.

The proud traits of the people's army boundlessly faithful to our party's cause lie, above all, in the fact that it is successfully carrying forward the revolutionary traditions of the anti-Japanese struggle established by Comrade Kim Il-song.

He said:

"we must add more splendour to the history of the People's Army which has inherited the glorious revolutionary traditions of the anti-Japanese guerrilla struggle."

To carry forward and develop the revolutionary traditions is a matter of principle related to the existence of a revolutionary army and its future.

The most important content of the anti-Japanese revolutionary traditions to be carried forward by the people's army is the tradition of infinite loyalty to the party and the leader.

The traits of the people's army boundlessly faithful to our party's cause lie also in the fact that it is growing stronger and developing constantly to be an army of the working class, a revolutionary army which is devotedly fighting for its social system and country, for its class and people.

A vigorous work for intensifying revolutionary and class education within the people's army has been conducted by our party, with the result that its ideological preparedness has gone to a considerable extent.

It is an immovable faith of our people's army officers and men to defend with their lives their party and leader, their social system and country.

The article notes that the revolutionary traits of the people's army as a staunch defender of our party's cause also lie in the fact that all its ranks are firmly united on the basis of revolutionary comradeship and have blood ties with the people.

The strengthening and development of our people's army into invincible revolutionary armed forces is entirely a precious fruition of the guidance of the party and the leader, the article stresses, and says:

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il put up a slogan of modeling the whole army on the *chuche* idea and is wisely leading army building and activity and seeing to it that education in the revolutionary traditions and class education are intensified among the soldiers in combination with the basic principles of the *chuche* idea and that unity based on revolutionary comradeship is consolidated.

ECONOMIC

Kim Chong-il 'Care, Solicitude' for Rural Peasants Lauded

*SK110613 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1507 GMT 10 Feb 88*

[Text] Pyongyang February 10 (KCNA)—Korean farmers are now spending their holidays in the rest homes at different places of Korea. Winter is a rest season for farmers.

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il took such a solicitude as to build rest centres at the scenic places where all the working people spend holidays at state expense.

Today the Korean agricultural working people are enjoying a happy life under the boundless care and solicitude of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

It was long ago that the living standard of the farmers surpassed by far that of the well-to-do middle peasants of the past. increasing with each passing day are the additional benefits of the party and the government for the farmers — abrogation of agricultural tax-[words indistinct] and the capital construction in the countryside at the expense of the state.

In particular, the social security system for co-op farmers has been introduced in recent years under the party's measure, with the result that farmers came to receive various forms of additional benefits such as old-age pension, pension for disabled farmers and (? pensions for) the bereaved families, the workers and office employees.

The loving care of Comrade Kim Chong-il for the farmers who are responsible for the nation's granaries is indeed great.

His warm care is associated with silicate brick houses built in Yongsong district, Pyongyang, in June last year.

One year, he saw a blueprint for silicate brick houses and said that farmers would be delighted to have dwelling houses of this kind. Such houses must be built in large numbers for them, he added.

He saw to it that model houses were built with first silicate bricks in Hwasong-Dong, Yongsong district.

At present, there stand new houses of rural style, one family of which occupies nearly 100 square metres.

Under the loving care of Comrade Kim Chong-il, many modern new villages have made their appearance in various parts of Korea and more than 80 modern rural

dwelling houses were built in south Sinuiju District of North Pyongan province and Yonha district of Uiju County of the province, etc.

A few years ago the entire Korean farmers were supplied with padded coats. Considerate of troubles of the farmers working in fields, he instructed that wind-shield sleeves and triangular hoods be attached to them. He also took care that buttons were attached to the stuffed coats for the old people, saying that they are accustomed to use them through their life. So, the peasants were supplied with stuffed clothes of various colour and form to their liking.

Today the agricultural working people of Korea are enjoying a happy life with nothing to worry under the warm solicitude and constant care of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

DPRK: National Scientific, Technological Festival Held

*SK111052 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1032 GMT 11 Feb 88*

[Text] Pyongyang February 11 (KCNA)—The 1988 national scientific and technological festival began in various areas.

The festival is aimed at fully solving various scientific and technological problems arising in the fulfilment of the third seven-year plan and at accelerating the chuche orientation, modernization and scientization of the national economy and further developing the scientific and technological level of our country.

It is held first at industrial establishments and cities and counties, then at the provincial level and finally at the central level.

The festival involves public presentation of scientific and technological papers, prize contests for technical innovation proposals and technical innovation exhibitions to make public many inventions, creations and technical innovation proposals conducive to the study, development and widespread introduction of new technologies which are of great significance in different sectors of the national economy.

The festival continues till May.